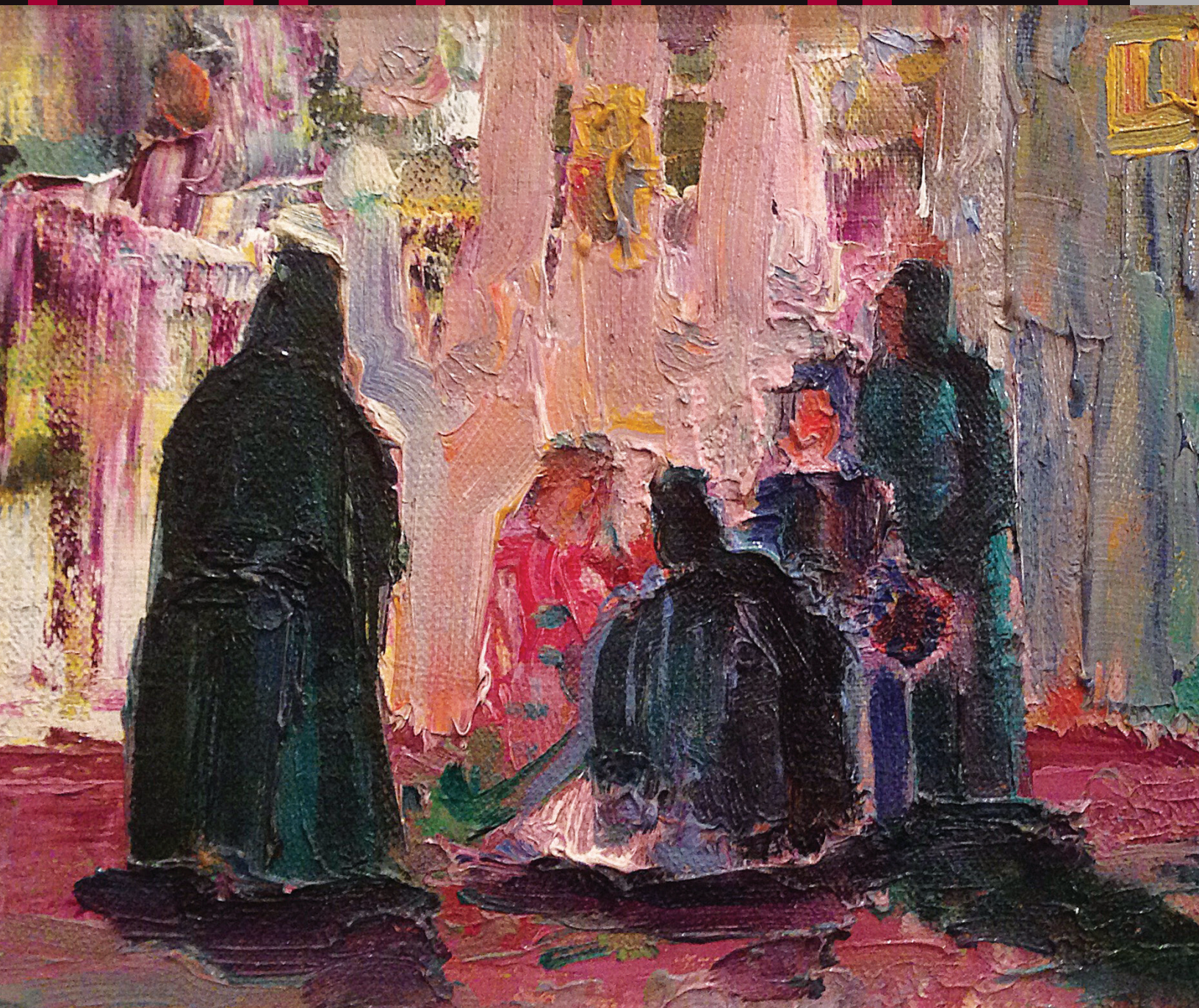




# ARMMA

NEWS



**The Birth of Christ**  
by DibaSar (Dibar Apartian)





1915-2015  
Centennial of the  
Armenian Genocide

Կը Յիշեմ եւ Կը Պահանջեմ  
I Remember and Demand

## AMAA NEWS

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31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652  
Tel: (201) 265-2607; Fax: (201) 265-6015  
E-mail: [info@amaa.org](mailto:info@amaa.org)  
Website: [www.amaa.org](http://www.amaa.org)  
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E-mail: [amaanews@amaa.org](mailto:amaanews@amaa.org)

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## Editorial Message

# THANKS<sup>giving</sup> FOR<sup>giving</sup> GIVING

**Zaven Khanjian**

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that  
whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

**John 3:16**

*Հաշուեյարդար. Ի՞նչ մնաց, կեանքէն ինծի ի՞նչ մնաց.*

*Ինչ որ տուի ուրիշին, տարօրինա՞կ, այն միայն:*

**Վահան Թեքեան**

*To sum it up, what remains? From a life lived what remains?*

*What I've given to others, strange enough, only that.*

**Vahan Tekeyan**

### Giving is a difficult thing.

It is an exercise in which you give away something that is your own. You deprive yourself from ownership of what is being given away. Kiss it goodbye! You separate yourself from something which has been yours for a short or long period of time. People sometimes have difficulty doing that as people like to hold on to things. People are possessive.

But you realize that giving is not a one sided exercise. In the act of "giving," there is always another side which is the "taker." One gives and one or more receive. Trade is the business term where parties involved give and take.

The Armenian language is a very flexible language. It holds a simple but beautiful word for "trade." That word is "AR-(Y)EV-DUR" which literally means "Take and Give." Every time the word is used it reminds us that giving is a two party transaction, a two way street. In highlighting the two parties involved, I like to stress the point that giving is not an isolated act. It affects others. It has an extended impact beyond one's self which gives the act of giving a fundamental meaning, justification, satisfaction and a good feeling. So good a feeling that the poet Tekeyan summarizes the quotient of a life lived in the joy of the sum of what was given to others.

In any society, giving and taking should be (and is) a natural cycle of life. All those who take should be developed into givers. Most of those who give have sometime in their past life experienced the gift of taking.

As mankind's cycle of giving is limited, sometimes difficult, often conditional and mostly exhausted in time, we are blessed with a Creator whose giving is indefatigable, expansive and infinite.



Christmas is a time to remind us of how that infinite giving of love to mankind is demonstrated in the birth of God's only begotten son, whose delivery to mankind was not only limited to a "giving" of love but was followed by "forgiving" through the ultimate sacrifice on the cross.

Now, I am not a linguist, but despite the superficial distance between the two words, I have always suspected that there is a direct connotation between "giving" and "forgiving." A surf of the internet brought my suspicion to light linking the two words in Old English by defining forgiveness as the act of giving completely and without reservation.

Confronted with God's infinite, complete, unreserved, sacrificial and unconditional "giving," there remains

one way for us to reciprocate. It is "Thanksgiving." Thanksgiving is a no sweat, easy and self-imposed sentiment. And while God's "giving" and "forgiving" is free through His grace, go ahead, put some teeth in your "Thanksgiving" this Christmas and enjoy giving. For when you come to sum up the life you lived, happily surprise God with the quotient of what you have given from the miracle of life He generously blessed you with.

**He has Given and Forgiven!  
Give back in Thanksgiving!**

**Քրիստոս Ծնաւ Եւ Յայտնեցաւ,  
Ձեզի Մեզի Մեծ Աւետիս:**

# Heavenly Treasures

By **Nazareth E. Darakjian, M.D., President, AMAA Board of Directors**

*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

**Matthew 6:19-21**

This is only one of the many commandments that Jesus gave in His Sermon on the Mount, but it is one that has great implications for us Christians. After all, most everyone on earth is busy storing something valuable for himself or his family whether that may be food, clothing, money or even precious jewels.

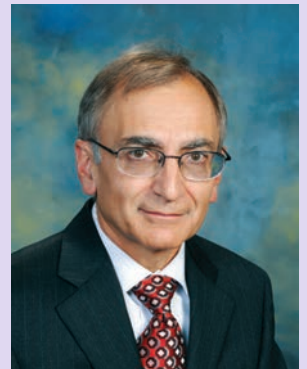
It is also universally understood that whatever we store here will stay here and will not accompany us when we pass on to the afterlife. How then can we transport and store treasures in heaven? There are no "heaven" banks where we can deposit money or wire funds to, and neither FedEx nor UPS go that far.

It is my understanding that Jesus is talking about two different kinds of treasures here. The treasures on earth are of the material and tangible kind, the kind that people slave for and fight over and sometimes lose their lives in the struggle. The treasures in heaven are spiritual and eternal, they do not perish and cannot be taken away by evil hands. There also seems to be an inverse relationship between the treasures that we store on earth and the treasures that we store in heaven. In other words, the more we give away from our earthly treasures the more we accumulate in heavenly treasures.

How then do we accumulate treasures in heaven? In Mark 10:21, Jesus tells the rich man who wants to inherit eternal life, "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasures in heaven." Taken literally, this is going to be very difficult for us humans, and Jesus understands that also perfectly well. Our treasure in heaven is nothing less than the eternal life given to us by grace through our faith in Jesus Christ and is not something that can be purchased by money or service. What Jesus wants us to do is to detach ourselves from the material goods and values that surround us and for which we struggle day and night, and to shift our focus and attention to the spiritual values that surround us here, and that will accompany us to the afterlife. By giving away our material wealth and using it to improve the life of another person in need, we indicate and declare that our heart is not in the material, in the transient and perishable treasures of the world, but our heart is after the spiritual, the lasting and eternal values that God Himself has defined for us.

The Christmas season is the time when we tend to think about giving gifts and making wishes, and here at the Armenian Missionary Association of America, we can make your wish come true. If your wish is to help an orphan or underprivileged child in Armenia, if you wish to help build a church complex in Gyumri, Armenia, if you wish to send a child to an Armenian school in Lebanon or a young adult to Haigazian University, if you wish to help our Syrian compatriots struggling in war besieged Aleppo, or the Syrian refugees trying to make ends meet away from home, if you wish to send a child to Christian camp whether in Armenia, Lebanon or the U.S., we can make your wish come true.

Remember what the great Armenian poet Vahan Tekeyan said: "what we give to others is ultimately the only thing we are left with."



# The Uniqueness of Jesus Christ

*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that You are the Holy One of God.*  
John 6:68-69

By Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Toolikian, Executive Director, AEWG

Our Gospel reading deals with a sad event in the life of our Lord. It was a time when many of the people who had first flocked to hear Him began to drift away. They had witnessed His miracles and were greatly impressed, but when He started to talk about His own suffering and death upon a cross, the crowds began to thin out. Some of the people decided to go with Him, and some others decided to go without Him.

Jesus asked His twelve disciples, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." (John 6:68-69) This seems to be John's version of Peter's confession at Caesarea Philippi: "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:16)

"To whom shall we go?" asked Peter, plaintively. "You are the Messiah." Right here is where we should get our thinking straight. Christ is the kind of a figure whose very presence in the world demands a decision. Where He is concerned, there is no neutrality. We must go through life either with Him or without Him.

Peter's question leads to other existential questions: If we leave Christ out, where will we go for our ideas of truth? If we leave Christ out, what will we do with the very real fact of our sin? If we leave Christ out, what will we do in the face of death?

In the light of these questions, one cannot but believe in the uniqueness of Christ for the following reasons:

**First, Jesus Christ is unique because of His special relationship with God.** He claimed to be one with the Father. He claimed to be "The Way, the Truth and the Life." He taught and did things on His own authority as no other religious leader did. While other religious leaders viewed themselves simply as God's messengers, Christ possessed a special nearness to God, not shared by anyone else. He declared: "Before Abraham was, I am (John 5:58), or "I and the Father are one...whoever has seen me, has seen the Father." (John 14:9)

Our Christian faith is based squarely upon the belief that in the life, death and the resurrection of Christ, namely in his Incarnation, God acted to fulfill His desire to reveal Himself and reconcile mankind to Himself.

**Second, Jesus Christ is unique because of His act of atonement.** Atonement is the reconciliation between God and His people. All religions, other than Christianity, believe that reconciliation with God is possible through human endeavors, such as meditation, renunciation of certain human vices and lusts, rituals, codes, commandments and performing good deeds, so that human beings can raise themselves above their inclinations and be able to come within the reach of God.

Christ is unique because He claims that God Himself has planned and performed the atoning work through Him, by reconciling mankind to Himself. Because of this reconciliation a new age dawned and the new hope became available to all.

**Third, Jesus Christ is unique because He overcame death through His resurrection.** His resurrection brings the good news that He has defeated mankind's greatest enemy, death. Because He lives, those who believe in Him shall live with Him forever. More importantly, His resurrection brings not only a great hope of life hereafter; it also brings victorious perspective into life here and now. Indeed the risen Christ brings into our lives peace, purpose and power.

Today, in a world of turmoil and temptations, trials and tribulations when following Christ becomes a challenge, Jesus asks the same question to us, as He asked His disciple, "Do you want to follow me?" Peter spoke for the twelve, and I hope for all of us, "Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." □



Cover Art Work: **The Birth of Christ**

Technique: **Oil on Canvas**

Size: **24x40 cm**

Artist: **DibaSar (Dibar Asadour Apartian)**

Painted in Aleppo, Syria in 1996, this oil on canvas, with its light and ambiance, is inspired by one of the warmest and simplest neighborhoods in the city of Aleppo. The painting represents, in a very simple way, the humble birth of Christ, surrounded by common people, who adored and respected the new born King.

Born and raised in Aleppo, Syria, **DibaSar** is an accomplished artist who currently resides in Paris and paints and exhibits in France and has his own gallery, DibaSar Gallery. You may visit his website at [www.dibasart.com](http://www.dibasart.com) or his Facebook page at DibaSar Gallery.



# The Miracle of Survival

## AMAA's 96th Annual Meeting in San Francisco

By Rev. L. Nishan Bakalian

For most people, the word "miracle" connotes something unexpected or incredible. But for those who believe in Jesus Christ, that word indicates that God is at work in the world, pointing minds and hearts to His mercy.

All of us who attended the AMAA's 96th Annual Meeting in the picturesque San Francisco Bay Area from October 15-18, 2015, hosted by the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church, realized that at every turn, God was directing our attention to His guiding and sustaining hand. Through the connections we were making across continents, in the reports we were hearing, during the heart-wrenching yet hope-filled accounts of "dangers, toils and snares" faced by Armenians halfway across the world, God's saving power was evident.

Each fall, when AMAA Board members, pastors and church members gather from some of the 24 countries where the Association supports ministries, we experience the refreshment of our ties as brothers and sisters in Christ, and we are encouraged as we speak and listen to one another's joys and struggles.

Appropriately, the meetings are preceded by the gathering of the Armenian

Evangelical World Council (AEWC), whose Executive Board is comprised of representatives from all Armenian Evangelical Unions. This year, there were as many guests at the AEWC meetings as there were Council members, and it was a blessing to share joys and concerns as a world-wide family. Not only did the Council hear reports of its activities, including participation in Genocide Centennial events in Armenia and the Diaspora, it also heard about the blessings and challenges faced by our communities in various countries.

The theme, "100 Years – The Miracle of Survival," brought to the fore the remembrance of the Armenian Genocide, along with the dedication and sacrifice made by so many who strove to rebuild the life of the Armenian people, reconstituting the churches, schools and communities decimated in 1915. Yet today's war in Syria and its deleterious effects on the fabric of our people, particularly in Syria and Lebanon, show us that the same determination and the same trust in God is demanded of us in these days.

The 96th Annual Meeting was held at the Armenian Calvary Congregational Church on Saturday, October 17. AMAA President Dr. Nazareth Darakjian presided

over the meeting, which was attended by over 90 members. Delegates of Armenian Evangelical Churches, Unions, Armenian Evangelical World Council, AMAA Committees and affiliated organizations shared their reports, their joys and concerns and praised God for another successful year.

Making his presentation to the AEWC meetings on Thursday, to the AMAA Board meeting on Friday, the Annual Meeting on Saturday, and especially as the Keynote Speaker at the Banquet that same evening, Rev. Haroutune Selimian, President of the Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria, spoke eloquently about the volatility of the situation there. He listed the challenges that they are facing on a daily basis, and how God is equipping them to meet those challenges, with the support of the AMAA and other partners. He also made clear his determination and that of many others to serve our churches and community, as well as reaching out to others in need.



**Annual Meeting Banquet Honorees L to R:** Elmer Kaprielian (grandson of Rev. Manasseh Papazian), Dr. Dorothy Hadidian Johnson (daughter of Rev. Dr. Yervant Hadidian, Stephanie Kalfayan (daughter of Rev. Puzant Kalfayan), Arousiag Tovmassian Missirlian (wife of Rev. Edward Tovmassian), Dr. Eileen Chopourian Stephey (daughter of Rev. Dr. Giragos Chopourian), Louisa Janbazian (wife of Rev. Dr. Movses Janbazian), Andy Torigian, Levon Filian, Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, Zaven Khanjian (current AMAA Executive Director/CEO).



He won not only the admiration of those present, but also their prayerful concern and commitment to continue generously helping the Syrian-Armenian community for the foreseeable future.

Two particular events of note occurred on Friday. First was the ordination examination of a young pastor, Ara Mkhitarian, from Buenos Aires, Argentina. Over 30 pastors and lay people gathered in the sanctuary of the host church to hear his life testimony, his coming to faith and his call to ministry, and an outline of his Christian beliefs. He told of many experiences, both in his native Armenia and in his current homeland, showing how the Lord broke through his pride to call him to bring the hope of the Gospel to the Armenian people there through preaching and loving service. After a period of question-and-answer, his candidacy for ordination by the AEUNA was unanimously approved.

The other notable event was a special gathering of pastors and missions committees, during which the AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian explained the history and current status of the case of the misappropriation of funds at the AMAA headquarters. Discovered in January of this year, the AMAA has worked with civil and legal authorities to recover 90% of those funds, and Mr. Khanjian expressed his confidence that the remainder would also be recovered. Not only has the AMAA been pursuing the recovery of what was stolen, but it has also initiated a severe self-study, in order to put into place procedures that will help the AMAA increase its security and accountability from this point forward.



*Dr. Nazareth Darakjian and Zaven Khanjian honoring the former Executive Directors and Secretaries.*

With over 250 in attendance at the Airport Marriott Waterfront, Saturday's Banquet was truly a celebration of thanks and an acknowledgement of God's miraculous hand over the last century. Banquet Chair Valina Agbabian eloquently welcomed the guests and presented the Master of Ceremonies Dr. Jerry Manoukian. Dr. Manoukian brought warmth and humor to the event, which included a new video presentation on the work of the AMAA throughout the world. That video included footage from the opening of the newly-constructed Avedisian School in Yerevan for the second academic year in its new location, as well as scenes from the 60th Anniversary of Haigazian University in Beirut. These two academic institutions, along with many other schools, are symbolic of the educational ministry Armenian Evangelicals have undertaken from the very beginning, nearly 170 years ago.

Through the words of Keynote Speaker Rev. Selimian, the power of God was evident, even in the midst of trials. But the faithfulness of God was also highlighted at the Banquet, with the honoring of all of the past Executive Secretaries and Directors



*Master of Ceremonies Dr. Jerry Manoukian.*



*AMAA 96th Annual Meeting.*



*L to R: Banquet Chair Valina Agbabian with Friends of AMAA Peninsula Chapter Honorees: Margo Gulesserian, Ronnie Henesian, Arpi Haleblan (not pictured Gloria Medzian).*

of the AMAA: Rev. Mihran T. Kalaidjian (1919-1921), Rev. Antranig A. Bedikian (1921-1928, 1929-1930, 1943-1946), Rev. Manasseh G. Papazian (1928-1929), Rev. Dr. Yervant H. Hadidian (1930-1934), Rev. Nishan Begian (1935-1943), Rev. Puzant H. Kalfayan (1946-1959), Rev. Edward S. Tovmassian (1959-1968), Steven Y. Mardigian (1968), Rev. Dr. Giragos H. Chopourian (1969-1987), Rev. Dr. Movses B. Janbazian (1987-2000), Andrew Torigian (2001, 2003, 2004-2009), Rev. Jirair M. Sogomian (2001-2003), Rev. Dr. Peter Doghranji (2004), Levon Filian, (2010-2013), and Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian (2014). The record of each one's service was read by the current Executive Director/CEO, Zaven Khanjian, and President, Dr. Nazareth Darakjian. Most touching, though, was the presence of the spouses and the descendants of many of those servants of God, alongside the more recent leaders being honored. As each received his or her award, the attendees visibly saw the



connection the AMAA has with those saints who have entered the Lord's promised rest from their labors. It was truly a moment of gratitude to God and a rejuvenation of our connectedness with each other.

During the Banquet, Margo Gulesserian, Arpi Haleblian, Ronnie Henesian and Gloria Medzian were also honored for their over 25 years of service as founding members and chairs of the AMAA Peninsula Chapter. The AMAA Executive Director/CEO challenged the members of this group to incarnate the AMAA Peninsula Chapter and continue their valuable service through the AMAA for the benefit of our children.

This uplifting weekend culminated in the Worship Service in the sanctuary of the host church. The pews and aisles were filled with worshipers from all over the world, thanking God for His goodness to all. Participants in the service also represented many different countries, and the prayers, readings and sermons in Armenian and English inspired and challenged us. The President of the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, Rev. Megrditch Karagoezian, spoke about how the Lord helps us in the "Absolute Imitation of Christ." Bringing the message Jesus gave to Peter, when he encountered Him after the resurrection, Rev. Karagoezian helped us to see how we, too, must deepen in our love for Him in order to follow and serve Him. The newly-appointed Minister to the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America, Rev. Berdj Djambazian, outlined "Purpose-Driven Unity," and helped us to see how the body of Christ is diverse, not restricted by uniformity. But because the church is unified around a single

purpose of knowing and serving the Lord Jesus, it is not chaotic or self-destructive. Like the four friends of the paralytic man in the gospels, we are active in our faith, caring for and helping those in need.

The Church Choir and instrumentalists enriched the Worship Service with their music, and the Executive Director of the AEWCA, Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, brought the service to its culmination with the installation of the newly-elected AMAA Board members. The host Pastor, Rev. Nerses Balabanian, also remembered the names of pastors and laypersons active in the support of the AMAA who had passed away in the last year.

Each of us in attendance express our gratitude to our wonderful hosts at Calvary Armenian Congregational Church, the members of the Planning Committee led by Armen Beylerian, the untiring workers in the kitchen who prepared such delicious meals throughout the weekend, Rev. Nerses Balabanian and everyone at the Church who made us feel welcome. Not only did we see the Lord at work in the world through the AMAA's work, but also in the hearts and hands of those who labored in planning and putting together the 96th Annual Meeting.

All of this is just one small part of the miracle that is ongoing in God's world. He will open our eyes to the evidence of His work in the past and present, and give us the resources to continue in the future to be a blessing to many, and a beacon of hope to the Armenian people. □



*Soloist Seda Kizirian, Mezzo-Soprano, and Pianist Sevan Balabanian.*



*Tatev Amiryan, Pianist/Composer.*



*Installation of AMAA Board Members and Officers.*

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# Rev. Haroutune Selimian's Message AMAA's 96th Annual Meeting Banquet

**D**r. Nazareth Darakjian, AMAA President, Mr. Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO, members of the Board of Directors, Reverend brothers, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a privilege for me to be here today, and it is with great joy and pride that I participate in the 96th Annual Meeting Banquet of the Armenian Missionary Association of America which coincides with the Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide Centennial. Armenians are spread almost everywhere, and we are all part of the commemorations in those places too.

When we look around us today, we cannot help but notice how people everywhere hurt due to political and economic situations, wars and tribulations.

The suffering has become so common that we seem to have become immune to it and we hardly react anymore. Whenever we switch on our television sets there is usually breaking news telling of a suicide attack, a gunman killing innocent citizens, or some other tragic event. Our imagination is captured for a few moments, and then it is gone...it becomes old news, forgotten.

It is even worse when we realize that we do not even react to the tragic events happening in our own neighborhoods, not only in far places.

The conflict in our own beloved home-country, Syria, has dragged on for more than four years now. It has been three years since this conflict arrived - with force - to Aleppo. Today, I am sad to say that many neighborhoods that you yourselves might have lived in one day or have visited in the past years are no longer recognizable. Even as I stand here in front of you the tragedy continues.

This sad war has resulted in the death – so far – of a quarter of a million Syrians and the exodus of millions of Syrians to neighboring countries. As long as the conflict continues, we need to continue remembering the incredible suffering which has followed, and continues to follow, for the people who are left behind, and there are many of them left behind. If the ones who left have economic or social problems, the ones staying behind face the daily struggle to exist and to survive in a destroyed country with the lack of almost everything that is basic in life – comfort to sleep safely, to walk without fear, to ride a car without worry. A place, where electricity, water, fuel, and the internet are rarities, and where death lurks around the corner at every single moment.

When we think of the refugees who are still so near their home-country but now live in the neighboring countries, we know that the host-countries have had to step up and provide social support and schooling and all the other needs of children,



youth and adults, just to name some such as the Armenian schools in Lebanon and on the top of them Haigazian University in Beirut doing exceptional ministry amongst the Syrian-Armenian university students.

What is also hard for us to imagine is the social tension among the millions of Syrians living in cramped living-quarters, and in many cases living with people that they do not know. Only 11 million out of 23 million Syrians are now living in their original homes. Some are displaced inside Syria, the others outside Syria. Can you imagine living through those traumatic experiences: in constant danger in their own homes or as displaced people, or as refugees? This experience will affect millions of people for the rest of their lives.

We all know how in the month of March 2011 the violence began in one little town in the south of Syria and how it has evolved ever since. Today, the conflict affects people in every part of Syria. Today, we are faced with so many problems, and we do not know what to do about them. This vicious circle of violence has totally changed the two largest Syrian cities: Damascus and Aleppo, which were once home to half of Syria's population. The daily shelling and violent exchanges of fire never stop. They go on and on and on every hour, day and night. We tense up and know that something is very, very wrong. As individuals we are also being tortured mentally and emotionally. Tranquilizers and sleeping pills are the answer for so many in our country, and are used more than aspirin.



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And yet, an amazing miracle still happens at this time of the year. The amazing miracle of still being able to open up the schools in most parts of Syria as if all is well. The miracle of enabling thousands and thousands of children to get back to something close to routine in the midst of a situation where nothing else is normal. And the best part of the miracles is that our children are still so eager to learn! They still believe they have a future! Amazing human will and faith.

So... can we, experienced and educated adults, find a solution to this terrible conflict? Is there something we can do when, without exception, all the cities and villages in Syria are in a state of war? Our peace has been hijacked by those who, for money, power, fuel and gas, are shedding innocent blood. Countless others shamefully keep silent. Can we find a solution? Who among us will have the courage to stand up for a non-violent approach to the dilemma that we are all facing? We can indeed surrender to despair, but so many of us are still able to see meaning in what we do and how we live with others in pain.

And we are learning lessons. Lessons about everything that is important. Sometimes we feel we were using masks in the past, but now everything is gone, especially our masks that gave us comfort. So, we are learning. We are learning in spite of our fear and tragedy. We have learned new things about being Christians and being Church. Now, more than in the past, we learn that the Church is also a rescuer. The Church is also a provider of real food, not only spiritual food. The Church is a supporter in every need, as simple as electrical power in the homes, or a contact with the outside world. The Church is very real because the problems are forcing us to look at the most important things in life.

We have learned more things about the family. We mostly learned that solidarity is the key to family life. Members of a family all feel weak and powerless in war, so it becomes very important to stick together, to protect each other, to always keep an eye on each other. Family is not to be taken for granted. People all around have been losing members of the family, so this keeps us all awake and supportive.

We have learned about the outside world, that bloodshed and tragedy may be watched and read about, but still the world can remain only focused on its interests. Maybe the interest is selling weapons. Maybe it is oil and gas. So, countries, or societies cannot rely on outside help only, because the strong powers may see the picture differently.

We have learned as Armenians that the stories of a hundred years ago are not exaggerated. Actually, when the Turkish forces or influences came near Aleppo in the past years, we emotionally lived the past stories again. Many of the Genocide stories happened near Aleppo a century ago. But they could happen again, by similar people.

We are also learning lessons about peace. Many powers are using force in Syria saying that it will create peace. But more destruction cannot create peace. More bombs cannot create good will among the people. The peace we need is the one that makes life worth living.

As disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are called to be peace-makers. We, in Syria, may not be able to change all the situations and create peace. But where we can, inside a church, inside a city, inside a small circle, we can and should create peace. I think that one reason why we still do not have peace in Syria

is that many people and powers do not mind that war continues. Others are not convinced that peace can be made. So, the will to be peace-makers is not found, and peace will not become a reality as long as we are not working for it.

The story of the AMAA is a story of peace-making in very clear and helpful ways. Almost a hundred years ago, and after disasters hit our Armenian nation, the AMAA started to become a positive reality. Immediately after that terrible disaster and from the pain of that most savage conflict, and the most detailed, mathematically planned Genocide the world had ever seen, the Armenian Missionary Association of America was founded in America; in the land of freedom, justice and peace and already for 96 years the AMAA has been striving and fighting for freedom, justice and peace, not only in America, but wherever it sets its foot! It has brought Christian hope for a future to a people made up of orphans who had survived a Genocide that had threatened their existence and made future into a grim prospect.

But these orphans created families! Don't ask me how! Because this is certainly a miracle from God! And they grew up to become a people with a present and a future using their minds, hearts and hands to create a life that had a true quality of life with the emphasis on Church and School becoming the pillars of their lives. They proved to us, their descendants, that Life can be very beautiful if we open our hearts and minds to God and first of all seek His Kingdom!

I want to express our gratitude to the AMAA and thank God for having such an organization in our nation and church. We feel extremely humbled and yet so happy to have brothers and sisters in the AMAA who have never ever let us down. At the time of our greatest need you were right there beside us. You did everything to contact us and listen to our sorrows, our struggles, our 'not-knowing-what-to-do' and you stood up for us and you were there in person closer than brothers and sisters. Thank you!

I'm so overwhelmed with emotion at this time, as I see the Armenian families of Aleppo right in front of me. I can see the old lady who walks with difficulty and who wouldn't be alive today if it hadn't been for your help. She's been a prayer warrior throughout her life and she has never stayed away from any of our gatherings in the Armenian community. But without a husband and no children around, her house would have been freezing cold during these cold winters and her fridge would have been empty if it hadn't been for Armenians in other countries who lived up to the words of the Gospel, urging us to take care of the widows and the orphans.

Your kindness has gone far beyond words and as a representative of the suffering people of Aleppo I can tell you that you have lived up to your reputation as a life-giving organization! You have made the people of Aleppo know that Christian charity is for real!

Thank you for what you have done for us and to us and we want to thank you for all the assistance that you want to give us in the future as well.

Peace to you, our brothers and sisters, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all of those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love. □

# The Executive Committee of AEW C Meets in San Francisco

By Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Executive Director, AEW C

**T**he Executive Committee of the Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC) held its Annual Meeting at Calvary Armenian Congregational Church in San Francisco, California, on October 15-16, 2015.

After the opening devotions, introduction of the new representatives and the approval of the agenda, a special tribute was paid to those from the Armenian Evangelical ministerium who have made their transition from this world to their eternal home.

The Executive Committee received written and oral reports by the officers of the Council and the representatives of the member organizations of AEW C.

A general review and evaluation was made on the Centennial observances of the Armenian Genocide, organized by the Armenian Evangelical churches and organizations, as well as commemorations conducted in cooperation with Armenian and non-Armenian denominations.

The situation of the Armenian community in Syria was discussed at great length, based on the first hand reports provided by the delegates of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East. The Committee made important decisions regarding the beleaguering situation.

Plans were made for establishing an AEW C office at the AMAA Headquarters in Yerevan.

Plans were also made for the 170th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church in 2016, as well as the 25th Anniversary of the independence of Armenia. A committee was appointed to work on the details of these dual celebrations.



**Front Row L to R:** Rev. Berdj Djambazian, Rev. Haroutune Selimian, Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, Zaven Khanjian, Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Rev. Megrditch Karagoezian, Rev. Dr. René Leonian. **Back Row L to R:** Rev. Jacques Tchoghandjian, Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, Dr. Nurhan Helvacian, Rev. Joel Mikaelian, Pastor Avetik Khachatryan. Missing from picture: Rev. Dr. Ronald Tovmassian and Joyce Philiposian Stein.

Decisions and appointments were made for other issues generating from the various items on the agenda. The meeting was adjourned with thanks to the host church and was closed with a prayer and Benediction. □

## Dear Friends of the AMAA,

In March of this year we alerted you to the misappropriation of funds by a former employee. Since that time, we have been vigorously pursuing restitution of the misappropriated funds. I am happy to report that the AMAA has recovered a significant portion of the lost funds, and we continue to believe that we will recover 100% of the funds. The AMAA has always been committed to transparency, accountability and a strong sense of responsibility. As such, in addition to the establishment of stronger internal controls to ensure integrity in every aspect of our financial transactions, we shall continue our recovery efforts and complete our pledge of meeting and honoring all donor wishes.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Sincerely,  
Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO  
Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc.



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# Meet Our Veteran Pastors: The Rev. Jirair Sogomian

By Harry Stephey\*

**R**everend Jirair Sogomian was born in Alexandria, Egypt in 1937 and received his elementary education in Alexandria at Armenian private schools and at the St. Mark French High School. Soon thereafter he decided to pursue a career in the ministry, in part due to the inspiration of the Reverend Theodore Daghlion of the Armenian Evangelical Church in Alexandria.

It was at this time in his life that he journeyed to Beirut to attend Haigazian College. After completing his freshman year at Haigazian, he spent the next three years at the American University of Beirut before continuing his education at the Near East School of Theology.

In 1962, at the age of 25, Jirair came to the United States and attended Milligan College in Tennessee, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1963. He next travelled to Hartford, Connecticut, where he continued his theological studies at Hartford Seminary and received his Master of Divinity degree in 1965. One of his mentors in Hartford urged him to pursue a PhD, but Jirair responded that he was more interested in becoming a pastor. His first parish was the United Armenian Calvary Congregational Church in Troy, New York, where he was ordained and served for three years. Following his service in Troy, he served for a short time as Minister of Christian Education and Youth at the United Church of Christ (UCC) Wapping Community Church in South Windsor, Connecticut.

His second Armenian parish was the Armenian Congregational Church of Detroit in Southfield, Michigan, where he served from 1970 through 1974. In 1975, he accepted a call to serve as the first Chaplain of Haigazian College (now University) in Beirut, Lebanon, where he was also a Professor of Religion and was active in recruiting young people for future leadership in the ministry. Asked why he would leave a parish that he had sparked to dramatic growth, he responded, "Because Haigazian means a lot to me. It provided the vital link between my French-Arabic education and my college education in English. The small college with its personal touch has provided room for creativity and free thinking, and I want to help preserve it." Soon after going to Beirut, civil war broke out in Lebanon and Rev. Sogomian sustained a gunshot wound to his hand. He returned to the United States in 1976.

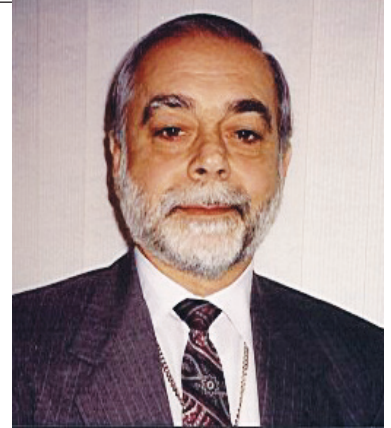
After returning to the United States, *Badveli* Sogomian first served as Pastor of the Immanuel Armenian Congregational

Church in Downey, California, and later at a non-Armenian UCC church in Simi Valley, California, before receiving the call from the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church (AMCC) in Havertown, Pennsylvania. He served as Pastor at AMCC for almost eleven years from August, 1990 until April, 2001. As his longest

consecutive term of service, he considers his ministry at AMCC to be one of the highlights of his career. He epitomized the term "pastor," which means "shepherd" in Latin. When asked what he thought was the most important part of being a pastor, he responded, "being close to the people and sharing their concerns with them."

Following the untimely death of Rev. Dr. Movses B. Janbazian in September 2000, *Badveli* Sogomian was called by the Armenian Missionary Association of America to be its next Executive Director, starting in April 2001. Multi-lingual and known for his exceptional ability to preach and teach the Gospel of Christ, Reverend Sogomian is equally recognized for goal-oriented administrative skills and organizational leadership. He spent his career traveling to places where he could be of the most service to others.

In 2003, Rev. Sogomian and his wife Lorraine "retired" to Huntington Beach, California, to be close to their children and grandchildren. His retirement was interrupted by a call to serve as Interim Pastor of the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church in Downey, California, where he served for six years until his final retirement in 2011. He still stays in touch with many of his former parishioners. Together, the Sogomians have five children - Mark Sogomian (Daria), Sharon Mequet (Brian), Michael Deovlet (Carol), Sheri Olson (Scott) and Allison Vamvas (Sterling) - who have blessed them with nine grandchildren - Jake and Colin Mequet, Sophie Sogomian, Danielle and Ali Deovlet, Chloe and Lily Olson, and Ani and Sosie Vamvas. □



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\*Harry Stephey is a member of the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Havertown, PA.

## Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School Opening Day

September 1 is not like any other day. It is the first day of school for all children in Armenia, a day of celebration and anticipation.

The sun shone brightly in a beautiful Armenia blue sky where students excitedly caught up with old friends, began meeting new ones and lined up ready to embark on a new school year.

Students, teachers and parents were greeted by Principal Melania Geghamyan, who wished them a successful new academic year full of great accomplishments which will result in a long-term effect on Armenia's future endeavors. Mrs. Geghamyan read a message sent by the Minister of Education Armen Ashotian, which greeted all the students, parents and teachers on their first day of school. Mr. Ashotian's message emphasized the importance of education and said that school is a wonderful source of knowledge, which over the years becomes deeply rooted in the minds and hearts of the students. He said that the students will never forget Avedisian School and will forever call it "my school."

Harout Nercessian, Armenian Missionary Association's Representative in Armenia, also congratulated the students, parents and teachers on the 2015-16 academic year, adding that they were extremely privileged to be able to attend and receive their education from the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School. He also encouraged them to reach their goals and to become well-educated Armenian citizens, contributing to their country.



*We thank God for the opportunities created at the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School for the children of Armenia. The passionate spirit to create an appealing and attractive atmosphere in an educational institution where students would love to excel and propel themselves forward has always been in the minds of the School's benefactors and the Armenian Missionary Association of America, who brought forth this unique educational institution. **Your support of the School will make a difference.** – Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO.*

## Discussions on Solar Power Plant Construction Held at Avedisian School and Community Center

On October 16, discussions on effective solutions of issues related to the construction of industrial-scale solar power plants were held at the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School and Community Center in Armenia.

Participants were the Deputy Minister of RA Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources Hayk Harutyunyan, Deputy Minister of RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations Artashes Bakhshyan, R2E2 Director Tamara Babayan, as well as relevant government agencies, international organizations and projects, non-governmental and financial organizations, experts and other interested parties.

The meeting's main speaker was Dr. Peter Gevorkian, an American-Armenian international authority in the field of solar energy who is well-known for his published books and designs of industrial-scale solar power plant projects. He presented the technological, legal and political issues and solutions of the industrial-scale solar PV stations in various countries, international experience and the possibilities of successful implementation of such projects in Armenia. □





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## AMAA Representatives Meet with Hranush Hakobyan, Minister of RA Diaspora

**O**n November 6, Hranush Hakobyan, Minister of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia, welcomed representatives from the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the Association, and Harout Nercessian, AMAA's Representative in Armenia.

The AMAA guests expressed their gratitude to the Minister for her efforts to enhance this Commemorative Event that was held on November 5. The Event was organized by the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia and celebrated Haigazian University's 60th Anniversary.

Speaking about AMAA's projects, Mr. Khanjian mentioned that the AMAA is looking for ways to reconstruct Camp Armen of Istanbul, which after much effort, was recently returned by the Turkish authorities to its rightful owner, the Armenian Evangelical Community of Istanbul. Mr. Khanjian presented Mrs. Hakobyan with a copy of the newly published English translation of *The Youth Home of Istanbul: A Story of the Remnants' Homecoming*, which tells the story of Hrant Guzelian, founder of the Camp.

The Minister encouraged the AMAA's intentions of reconstructing Camp Armen and expressed her gratitude for all its efforts in the



fields of education, culture, health care and relief. She specifically stressed the Association's efforts in helping the Syrian-Armenians.

During the meeting, the participants also spoke about the possibility of their joint efforts preserving the Armenian culture and identity. □

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## Visit with Republic of Armenia's Presidential Chief-of-Staff



**W**hile visiting Armenia and Karabagh in early November, AMAA's Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian met with Armenia's Presidential Chief-of-Staff Vigen Sargsyan on November 11. During their meeting, AMAA's vast operations in Armenia and Karabagh were discussed in addition to the 2015 "Hayastan" All Armenia Fund Thanksgiving Telethon and the joint response to the Syria-Armenian crisis. □

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## President of Artsakh Republic Receives Representatives of AMAA



**O**n November 3, the President of Artsakh Republic Bako Sahakyan received representatives of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) headed by Zaven Khanjian the Executive Director/CEO of the Association. Issues related to the various charity projects of the Association, as well as of the Artsakh Republic were discussed. The President noted with satisfaction that the AMAA's support to Artsakh has always been significant and thanked them for their patriotic activities. □

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## Celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Haigazian University and Dedication of the 35<sup>th</sup> Edition of Haigazian Armenological Review Held in Yerevan

With the support of Hranush Hakobyan, Minister of Diaspora of Republic of Armenia, a special event was held on November 5 at the Hall of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) of the Republic of Armenia. The event celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Haigazian University and the Dedication of the 35<sup>th</sup> Edition of Haigazian Armenological Review.

Mrs. Hakobyan welcomed the guests and spoke highly about the unique role of Haigazian University, the only Armenian University in the Diaspora. At the conclusion of her remarks, Mrs. Hakobyan awarded Haigazian University with a Gold Medal, on the occasion of its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, for its Armenia-Diaspora partnership, as well as for its contribution for the maintenance and preservation of the Armenian culture in the Diaspora.

Yuri Suvarian, Spokesman of the Armenian and Social Sciences Department of the NAS, and Vice Rector of Yerevan State University (YSU) Aram Simonyan conveyed greetings from YSU Rector Aram Simonyan and presented Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, President of Haigazian University, a Gold Medal on behalf of YSU.

In his remarks, Rev. Dr. Haidostian expressed gratitude and appreciation for the awards and said that "Haigazian University is well known now in the Fatherland due to the collaborations with the ministry of the Diaspora over the years." He then awarded Mrs. Hakobyan, as well as the NAS and YSU, with special awards.

In his remarks, Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the



Armenian Missionary Association of America, greeted the guests and thanked them for the expression of gratitude for Haigazian University and its important role in the preservation of the Armenian culture and heritage in the Diaspora.

The program concluded with the dedication of the publication of the 35<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Haigazian Armenological Review. In his concluding remarks, Antranig Dakessian, Director of the Armenian Diaspora Research Center of Haigazian University, said that the purpose of the Haigazian Armenological Review is to encourage and strengthen the activities of intellectuals of the Diaspora, and particularly of Lebanon, in the field of Armenological studies and to support their cooperation with scientists in Armenia. □

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## *My Fatherland's Call* Concert Benefits Syrian-Armenians in Armenia

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) held a special Concert "My Fatherland's Call," to benefit the Syrian-Armenians who settled in Armenia. The Concert was held at the AMAA-Armenia Center on Baghramyan Street in Yerevan, Armenia and featured famous vocalist Anna Mayilian and her students. The group presented a beautiful program of various Armenian spiritual and patriotic songs.

After the welcoming words of Andranik Mardoyan, Master of Ceremonies, Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the AMAA, greeted the guests and briefly talked about the AMAA's relief efforts to the Syrian-Armenians.

Following the Concert, a short video was presented about the current crisis in Syria. Harout Nercessian, AMAA's Representative in Armenia, concluded the special benefit Concert with his heartfelt gratitude to all who attended. □





## AMA-Australia Renovates the Playground of Choratan, a Border Village in Armenia

September 25, 2015 was a festive day for Choratan Village in Tavush Region of the Republic of Armenia. It marked the dedication ceremony of the Village Kindergarten Playground, which was completely renovated by a generous donation from the Armenian Missionary Association of Australia. The old Playground, located in an abandoned area of the Kindergarten grounds, now has green areas, benches, swings and play stations for the children to enjoy.

Representing the AMAA at the dedication ceremony were Harout Nercessian, AMAA Representative in Armenia, Lusine Ohanyan, Coordinator of External Relations of the AMA-Armenia, and AMA-Australia President/Executive Rev. Dr. Krikor Youmshajekian. The Mayor and many other representatives from the Tavush Region were also present. The Village representatives expressed their gratitude for the renovation which will bring much joy to the Kindergarten children and to the entire Village of Choratan. The AMAA continues

to contribute to the well-being of the border villages and especially to the children.

Rev. Dr. Youmshajekian and Kakig Melikian, RA Parliamentary Representative of Tavush Region, along with the Kindergarten children cut the ribbon to officially open the Playground. Mayor Varuzhan Baghmalyan presented certificates of appreciation to Mr. Nercessian and to Rev. Dr. Youmshajekian and a special program was performed by the students of the Choratan Kindergarten. □



*Rev. Dr. Krikor Youmshajekian and Kakig Melikian, RA Parliamentary Representative of Tavush Region, cut the ribbon to officially open the Playground.*



*View of the old Playground.*



*Partial view of the renovated Playground.*



*One of the play stations of the Playground.*



Our students at Avedisian School in Yerevan recently participated in the 10th Tournament of School Chess Olympiad and one of them won second place.

**Congratulations!**

## AMAA Executive Director/CEO Presents Lecture Forgotten Heroes of the Armenian Genocide

By Mihran Jizmejian

The Cultural Committee of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto invited AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian to deliver a lecture on Armenian Evangelical Heroes, who, during their lifetime, had not received adequate and proper recognition for their heroic work during and after the Armenian Genocide,

The lecture was held in the Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto on September 12.

The Committee Chair Hagop Mouzenian invited Mistress of Ceremonies Sona Hovsepian to take the podium. She underlined the **Raison D'être** of inviting young artists to participate in the program and highlighted that "**We have survived, will continue to live and still will multiply**" in the words of poet Barouyr Sevag.

With great emotion, ten year old Haig Mardoyan recited Vahan Tekeyan's *The Armenian Spirit*, and 13 year old Araz Tokjian played John Williams' *Schindler's List*.

Mr. Khanjian was introduced by his long-time friend Mihran Jizmejian, President of the Armenian Missionary Association of Canada, who said that Mr. Khanjian would bring to light the actions of a couple of heroes who, during and after the Genocide, acted with great courage and saved thousands from perishing during the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and helped in the saving of the nation. Upon the request of Mr. Khanjian, Mr. Jizmejian read the author's message from his book titled *Aleppo*.

Mr. Khanjian very skillfully and in an interesting manner presented three heroes of the Armenian Genocide – Rev. Aharon Shirajian of Aleppo, Syria, Rev. Dikran Antreassian of Moussa Dag and Hrant Guzelian, founder of Camp Armen in Tuzla, Turkey. The



Some of the members of the Executive Committee of AMAC.

**L to R:** Sarkis Marandjian, Zela Sarmazian Kakousian, Mihran Jizmejian, Zaven Khanjian, Dr. Ani Janbazian Hasserjian and Rev. Dr. René Leonian.

lecture was very well received by the audience and an appreciation plaque was given to Mr. Khanjian.

Thirteen year old Nora Boghossian beautifully sang *Groung Parov Tarnas* and the young violinist Araz played *Giligia*.

In his closing remarks Rev. René Leonian thanked Mr. Khanjian, participants in the program and members of the Cultural Committee. A reception followed in the Rev. Dr. Movses Janbazian Fellowship Hall of the Church. □

## Mr. Khanjian Participates in Sunday Worship of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto

On September 13, AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian participated in the Sunday Church Worship Service at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto. With a power point presentation, he explained the various and extensive humanitarian, missionary, educational and social service programs the AMAA has established around the world. He emphasized the dire situation in Syria, and encouraged everyone to do their best to assist their Syrian brothers and sisters.

After the Worship Service, a reception followed in the Fellowship Hall where many approached the Executive Director with their questions. Around \$650 was raised that day from the sale of his books which will be used for Syria Relief.

Our prayer is that God continues to keep and guide the AMAA Executive Director, Board Members and Staff to faithfully serve the Association for His Glory and for the improvement of the lives of those who are destitute and in need of our help. □





# Rev. Dr. René Leonian Presents Lecture

## On Russian, Georgian and Abkhazian Armenian Communities

The Cultural Committee of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto has organized several events over the past few months. The last one, held on September 26, was a lecture by Rev. Dr. René Leonian dedicated to the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide. On behalf of the Cultural Committee, Hagop Mouzenian welcomed the guests, and Khoren Mardoyan presented the Keynote Speaker, Rev. Dr. Leonian, who since May 2015 has served as the Visiting Pastor of the Toronto Church.

The educational lecture included a power point presentation, where the audience had a "virtual tour" of many places that Rev. Dr. Leonian had visited.

The first part of the lecture was dedicated to the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide. It was a presentation of Rev. Dr. Leonian's "Pilgrimage" to Istanbul, the exact location where the Armenian intellectuals, scholars and educators were imprisoned on the night of April 24, 1915 and later were taken away and massacred.

The commemorative events of the Centennial in Istanbul started at the Haydar Pasha Train Station, where "I remember and I demand Justice" banners were held by, not only Armenians, but by a majority of non-Armenian citizens of Turkey. "During recent years in Turkey," said Rev. Dr. Leonian, "there is more awareness and some scholars use the term Genocide, which benefits the Armenian cause."

The second part of Rev. Dr. Leonian's lecture was devoted to the challenges that the Armenian communities in Eurasia, the former Soviet Union countries, are facing today to keep their Armenian identity.

Speaking about the Armenian Community in Russia, Rev. Dr. Leonian mentioned that there are about one million Armenians living in Moscow and the Community is well organized, specially after the construction of the Armenian Apostolical Church along with the Cathedral Complex which has become a hub for the Armenian Community.

Using a power point presentation, Rev. Dr. Leonian also spoke about the Armenian Evangelical Churches of Moscow and Sochi in Russia, Abkhazia, Sokhumi and Akhalkalaki in Javakhk region and Akhaltsikhe. Speaking about Georgia, he highlighted the Armenian Schools and mentioned that the Armenian Evangelical Community of Tbilisi is very small but quite active under the leadership of Rev. Karen Khachatryan. Rev. Dr. Leonian specifically praised the work of the Armenian Relief Society at the Ninotsminda Educational and Cultural Center with all the Social Services and Cultural Programs conducted under modern facilities.

After his closing remarks, Rev. Yessayi Sarmazian concluded the Program with a prayer. Following the presentation, a reception was held at the Rev. Dr. Movses Janbazian Hall hosted by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Church.

The following week, the same lecture was also presented at the Armenian Evangelical Churches of Montreal, QC. □



**L to R:** Father Gomidas Panossian, Hagop Mouzenian, Rev. Yessayi Sarmazian, Rev. Dr. René Leonian and Hayr Stepanos Pashayan.

# A Night of Remembrance in Toronto

## Honoring Rev. Dr. Movses B. Janbazian

### Man of Vision with a Mission

By Lori Janbazian Sarkisian

**A** commemorative event to honor the late Rev. Dr. Movses Janbazian, former Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America from 1987 to 2000, was held at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto on October 10. The event, organized by the Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto, honored the anniversary of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death in 2000.

Clergy from the Armenian churches of Toronto, members of Rev. Dr. Janbazian's immediate and extended family, as well as several members of the Toronto-Armenian community, took part in the event. In his opening remarks, Master of Ceremonies Mihran Jizmejian noted Rev. Dr. Janbazian's countless contributions to Armenian Evangelical Churches worldwide, and his work with the Armenian Missionary Association of America. He also highlighted their close personal relationship and their experiences working together.

Several performances took place during the evening, including Lilit Smpadian's rendition of Aram Khachadourian's *Gayane's Lullaby* on the piano, Araz Tokjian's rendition of Chopin's *Nocturne n. 20* and Nahabed Rusinian's *Giligia* on the violin, as well as soprano Sona Hovsepien's rendition of "*Medz Eh Havdarmutunt*" and Rev. Armenag Missirian's "*Hayr Mer*" (*Lord's Prayer*).

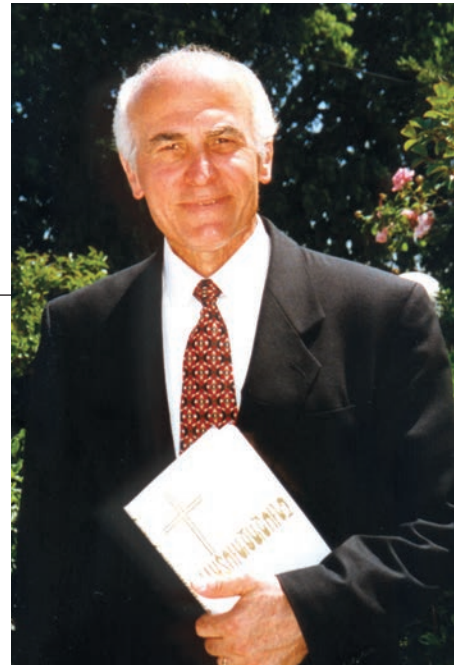
A moving video about Rev. Dr. Janbazian's life and work was presented, after which Zela Sarmazian Kakousian and Lori Janbazian Sarkisian introduced the two Keynote Speakers, Rev. Hovhannes Sarmazian and Rev. Dr. René Levonian. The two reverends spoke eloquently about Rev. Dr. Janbazian's commitment to the Armenian Church, the Armenian people, Armenia and Artsakh, and to humanity at large.

The Very Reverend Fathers Hayr Yeghia Kirejian, Pastor of the St. Gregory Armenian Catholic Church of Toronto, Der Zareh Zargarian, Pastor of the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church of Toronto,

and Hayr Stepanos Pashayan of St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church delivered remarks which highlighted Rev. Dr. Janbazian's years of active service and commitment to the importance of interdenominational respect and comradery in the Armenian church.

Remarks on behalf of the family were delivered by Rev. Dr. Janbazian's sister Dr. Ani Janbazian Hasserjian, son Vahak Janbazian, and brother Hagop Janbazian.

The commemorative event concluded with a prayer delivered by seven clergy members of the Armenian churches of Toronto. A reception followed in the Rev. Dr. Movses Janbazian Fellowship Hall at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto, where guests reminisced and shared special memories of Rev. Dr. Janbazian. □



While in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, AMAA Executive Director/CEO joined the representatives of the Armenian Community of Toronto to plant a tree in commemoration of the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide. The tree was planted in a Public Park in Markham close to the Armenian Evangelical Church, in memory of the Armenian and Greek martyrs.

**Pictured L to R:** Mihran Jizmejian, AMAC Executive Director, Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO, Rev. Dr. René Leonian, visiting Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Toronto, Hayr Stepanos Pashayan and Father Gomidas Panossian of the St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church of Toronto.



# Haigazian President Hadistoian Delivers 60th Anniversary Message At LA Opera Event

The following message was delivered by Haigazian University President Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian at the University's 60th Anniversary Celebration at the LA Opera on October 3 in California.

## *Let us say we dreamt one day.*

*...to establish a teacher training program that would develop to be a recognized and well-respected university.*

*...to run a Diaspora institution where the moral and spiritual assets would give meaning to its material assets, where every Armenian could stand tall and take pride in turning calamity and disadvantage to higher education and professional training.*

*...where we would compete with the advanced programs of learning elsewhere, and where we would dare to compete with the space-race of the super-powers.*

*...where the graduates would proceed to be school founders, teachers, bishops, pastors, writers, social workers, members of parliament, CEO's of banks and companies, and even prime ministers.*

*...where we would wait for Armenia to become independent so that we may support its capacity building projects.*

*...where all Armenians would feel equal to each other and unite in their efforts.*

*...where people of war of various nations would find a haven of peace and the love of Christ.*

*...where the Armenian, Middle Eastern, and the American aspects of culture and education would remain in conversation.*

*...where displaced and disadvantaged students would benefit from a \$ 1.2 million dollar support fund annually.*

*...where research in Armenian studies could be extensively conducted in the Armenian language.*

*...where Ararat, the Phoenix and the Cedars could form a rich and charming harmony.*

*...where a university of the Diaspora could bring together Board members and friends, surrounded by hundreds of generous supporters across the oceans, mountains and seas far away from Beirut.*

*...where education, faith, community-building and leadership-training could be combined.*

*Then we woke up to see that our dream has been a 60 year old reality called Haigazian University.*



# Haigazian University's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Raises \$1.6 Million for Endowment Fund

By Joyce Abdulian

From the moment one stepped onto the Music Center Plaza in Los Angeles on October 3 to attend the Gala celebrating Haigazian University's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the anticipation one felt was electric. Guests were greeted on the red carpet by beautiful, handsome young hosts, each identified by a blue ribbon emblazoned with the word "Excellence." They too were caught up in the excitement of the evening and now have a firsthand knowledge of what Haigazian University is all about.

During the champagne reception on the Plaza, guests had photos taken, enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, and greeted friends on this picture-perfect California evening.

The young hosts escorted guests up the red carpet to the door leading to the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion to take their seats for the Opera. The excitement was palpable. Woody Allen's production of "Gianni Schicchi" held all the theatrical acumen he is known for! Plácido Domingo's comic portrayal of "Gianni Schicchi" as the clever "friend" brought the house down many times.

Following intermission, where Haigazian guests were treated to a private reception, Puccini's "Pagliacci" was conducted by the erudite Maestro Domingo.

At the conclusion of the Operas, guests were escorted to dinner. As one approached the banquet hall, one was greeted with

sounds of circus music. Upon entering the door, tent fabric brushed one's shoulders – further creating the ambience of a circus tent. Once in the room, one's senses were overwhelmed by the vision of flowers, gracing each table with a unique circus-theme flower centerpiece. Performing on the stage were two mimes in circus attire and makeup who later mixed with the guests for photos.



**L to R:** AMAA Executive Director/CEO, Zaven Khanjian, Archbishop Hovnan Derderian and Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian.





Following the prayer for the meal by former Haigazian President Rev. Dr. John Khanjian, Co-Chairs Tina Segel and Harry Nadjarian welcomed the guests, and thanked them for their generosity. During dinner, quite a stir was created when Maestro Plácido Domingo entered the room, joining Joyce and Joe Stein's table, and later warmly addressing the crowd, expressed his respect for the many varied talents of Armenians, and shared how his mother's opera coach was Madam Babayan.

Philanthropist Joyce Philibosian Stein spoke of her remembrances of the first conversation with her father Stephen Philibosian and Steven Mehagian, late into the night around the fireplace in her parents' home, discussing their dream of an Armenian College in Beirut. This evening, 60 years later, once again validated their grand vision.

Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, Haigazian University President, who traveled with his wife Maral from Beirut for this occasion, addressed the audience. "Haigazian University, the only Armenian University outside the Diaspora," he said, "is a place where Syrian refugee students are finding a welcome sanctuary, one reason for the increased endowment campaign."

Other distinguished guests present at the Gala were His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian of the Western Diocese, His Eminence Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian of the Western Prelacy, Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the Armenian

Missionary Association of America, Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, President of the AMAA, Dr. Ani Darakjian, Chair of the Haigazian Board of Trustees, Levon Filian, West Coast Executive Director of the AMAA, and Maestro Vatsche Barsoumian, Founder and Director of Lark Musical Society. □



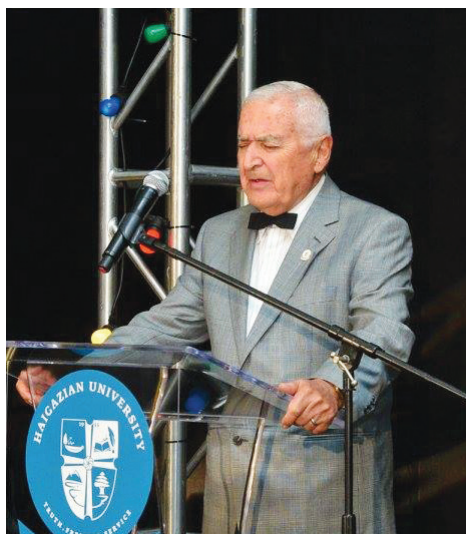
*Maestro Plácido Domingo greets AMAA President Dr. Nazareth Darakjian.*



**L to R:** Rev. Dr. Paul and Maral Haidostian, Drs. Nazareth and Ani Darakjian, Tina Segel, Harry Nadjarian, Dr. Liliana and Levon Filian.



**L to R:** Joe Ganimian, Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian, Harry Nadjarian and Vahe Yacoubian.



*Former Haigazian University President Rev. Dr. John Khanjian blesses the meal.*



*Joyce Philibosian Stein greets the guests.*



*Joe Stein greets Maestro Plácido Domingo.*



ARMENIAN MISSIONARY



ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
Founded 1918

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31 WEST CENTURY ROAD ■ PARAMUS, NJ 07652  
PHONE: 201.265.2607 ■ FAX: 201.265.6015 ■ E-MAIL: info@amaa.org

October 3, 2015

Harry Nadjarian  
Tina Segel  
Event Co-Chairs  
Haigazian University's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala  
LA Opera, Los Angeles, CA

Dear Harry and Tina,

On behalf of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), I salute tonight's celebration of Haigazian University's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala at LA Opera's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion showcasing the world famous Placido Domingo singing the title role in Woody Allen's production of Puccini's *Gianni Schicci* and then conducting the stunning *Pagliacci* followed by a Gala Dinner in the iconic Grand Hall.

The planning of an event of this magnitude, for a cause so noble, in a community so saturated with an unlimited cycle of activities and successfully giving it a national dimension, is merely a heroic achievement.

From conception to realization, the witnessed commitment, devotion, dedication, sacrifices and hard work by a beehive army of volunteers calls only for boundless admiration, highest respect and loudest acclamation.

For all the sweat shed, energy burned, tireless work carried out and dollars invested, there is the promise of a selfless satisfaction, sweet containment and the priceless blessing of providing the joyful opportunity to a new generation of young, education hungry Armenian youth, to enroll at Haigazian University, fulfill their potential and realize their dreams. Dreamers, who could possibly be, war-torn Syria's Armenian refugees or impoverished albeit brilliant young high school graduates in Lebanon. The harvest of this investment of love is fresh contingents of potential leadership in the nation and boundless promised creativity unleashed to humanity.

For 60 long years, Haigazian University has been a beacon of light, educating young men and women, preparing a leadership in the Middle East and expatriating well rounded professionals across the oceans.

Please accept and convey my deepest gratitude to every single contributor to this Herculean effort. From the hundreds congregated in this magnificent Opera Hall tonight to the gallant absentee donors and ALL of those who labored for this historic and memorable achievement, I dedicate with utmost gratitude, Haigazian University's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary motto – "PRIDE IN MERIT."

Sincerely,

Zaven Khanjian  
Executive Director/CEO

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations..." Matt. 24:14  
«Այս արքայական առնարանը պիտի ցարդոյի ամբողջ երկրագունդին մէջ իբր վկայութիւն բոլոր ազգերուն...» Աւարք. 24:14



# Haigazian University Holds Board Meeting and Alumni Banquet in Los Angeles

Two weeks after a successful Gala Event celebrating Haigazian University's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Haigazian University Board held its annual Los Angeles Board Meeting on October 13-14 at the United Armenian Congregational Church. Board members from Lebanon and the United States were in attendance to review the current and future achievements and activities of the University.

On Saturday evening, October 14, Haigazian University's LA Alumni held a Dinner-Dance in Glendale, CA, to celebrate 60 years of the University's achievements. The Alumni, Board members, University President Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, and former President Rev. Dr. John Khanjian participated in the cake cutting ceremony. The highlight of the evening was the many personal testimonies given by Haigazian graduates. □



*Haigazian University Board of Trustees meeting.*



*Cutting of the 60th Anniversary Cake at the Haigazian University Alumni Banquet.*



*Haigazian University Board of Trustees.*

## Lark Musical Society Honors Joe and Joyce Philibosian Stein

On Sunday, November 8, the Lark Musical Society honored philanthropists Joe and Joyce Philibosian Stein during its Honor Night Banquet at the Jonathan Club in Los Angeles.

"We are delighted that the Lark Musical Society chose to honor Joe and Joyce Stein during their Honor Night," said Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO. "The Steins are true philanthropists, donating millions of dollars in scholarships for Armenian students world-wide, supporting churches and missionaries, providing relief aid wherever necessary and for supporting the arts and music, such as the Lark Musical Society."

The Armenian Missionary Association of America congratulates the Lark Musical Society for its excellent work in the Greater Los Angeles Community since 1994 and for bringing awareness of the Armenian culture. □



*L to R: Hyde and Andy Torossyan, Chairman of Lark Musical Society, Joyce and Joe Stein, 2015 Honorees, Patricia and Jerry Turpanjian, 2012 Honorees, Drs. Ani and Nazareth Darakjian, 2013 Honorees.*

## Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church of Fresno Bids Farewell to Reverend Ara Guekguezian

A farewell banquet for Rev. Ara Guekguezian was held on September 30 at Pardini's Banquet Hall in Fresno. Over 300 guests, including AEUNA pastors from throughout California, Fresno clergy and the AMAA West Coast Executive Director Levon Filian attended to honor Rev. Guekguezian for his 15 years of service as

Senior Pastor of Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church.

Banquet Chairman Edward Saliba welcomed everyone on behalf of the Church Council. He reflected on Badveli's call to serve God, emphasizing his dedication, encouragement and heartfelt love for his congregation and missions work, especially in Armenia.

The Minister to the Union Rev. Berdj Djam-bazian brought greetings from The Armenian Evangelical Union of North America and shared words of encouragement with Rev. Guekguezian. The honorary Council General of Armenia Berj Apkarian presented Rev. Guekguezian with a proclamation signifying his many accomplishments.

Several testimonials were shared by members



*Rev. Ara Guekguezian*

representing the various generations and committees of the Church, stating the impact Badveli made on their lives.

The evening was concluded with a pictorial presentation of Badveli's tenure at the Church, followed by special remarks and the Benediction by Rev. Guekguezian. □



*Rev. Ara Guekguezian on the right pictured with colleagues in Christian ministry.*

### *Meet Our Staff at AMAA*

#### **Nancy Rivera, Executive Assistant**

Since 2010, Nancy Rivera has served the AMAA as the Executive Assistant to the office of the Executive Director/CEO. Over the years, she has taken great pride in her work and is committed to furthering the mission of AMAA through her support role in the organization. While serving in this capacity, she has enjoyed great working relationships with ministry friends and partners.

Nancy brings over 30 years of top shelf experience to the AMAA. Throughout her career, she has worked in various sectors, including government, corporate and non-profits of all sizes. Through it all, her heart has always been drawn to ministry and missions. For that very reason, she remains thankful for the opportunity to serve the AMAA with her gifts and talents.

While Nancy calls Maywood, NJ home, she was born in New York City and lived there through her young adult years. That is also where she honed her skills as an administrator and grew in passion for service onto the Lord. Nancy is married to her childhood sweetheart, Ernesto, and together they have raised two amazing children: Ernesto III and Emily Rose. Together, they all serve in ministry at Montclair Community Church in Montclair, New Jersey. □





# Special Public Gatherings With Rev. Selimian

## Los Angeles



A special public gathering with the Rev. Haroutune Selimian was held at the Nazareth and Sima Kalaydjian Hall of the Western Diocese on Wednesday, October 21. Close to 300 people including members of Armenian organizations and community leaders attended the event which was organized by the Armenian Missionary Association of America in collaboration with the Syrian Armenian Relief Fund.

Rev. Selimian, President of the Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria and member of the Central Committee of SHDAB, (Syrian Armenian Emergency Relief and Reconstruction Organization) lectured on the dire situation of the Armenian community in Syria and called upon the Armenian community to play an active role in reaching out to those in need. □

## Fresno



In cooperation with the AMAA, the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church of Fresno, CA hosted a special reception on October 22 in honor of Rev. Haroutune Selimian, President of the Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria.

On behalf of the "Hearts for Syria" Committee, Edward Saliba welcomed the Executive Director/CEO of the AMAA Zaven Khanjian and over 100 guests who came to extend their continued support and gratefulness to Rev. Selimian for the work he and the churches are doing in Syria. □

Rev. Selimian thanked the Fresno churches for their financial support and prayers. He shared how the funds raised at the recent "Hearts for Syria" banquet held in Fresno in the summer were being used to serve the Armenian Community in Syria. In addition, a letter was read from the Social Action Committee in Beirut, describing how the funds were being used to serve Syrian refugees in Beirut. Rev. Selimian educated the attendees on the ongoing conflict in Syria and its ramifications on the Armenian community there. He responded to many questions, while sharing his love and compassion for our sisters and brothers in Syria.

Jane Bedrosian presented Rev. Selimian with a basket filled with dried fruits and raisins from National Raisin Company as a token of appreciation from the heart of California.

The evening was concluded with the laying of hands on Rev. Selimian by Rev. Gregory Haroutunian, Senior Pastor of First Armenian Presbyterian Church, Rev. Kevin Kasper, Associate Pastor of Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church, and by other clergy and deacons present. The program ended with the Benediction by Rev. Haroutunian. □



*L to R: Prof. Barlow Der Mekerditchian, Department Chair for the Armenian Studies Department at California State University Fresno, Edward Saliba, Rev. Haroutune Selimian and Zaven Khanjian.*

## New Jersey



On October 26, Rev. Haroutune Selimian, President of the Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria, visited with over forty friends and supporters at a dinner welcoming him to New Jersey. During this time, Rev. Selimian provided an update on the situation in Syria and answered questions from the crowd. The visit came on the heels of his keynote address at AMAA's Annual Banquet in San Francisco. □



## Pastors from Armenia Visit Merdinian School

**T**wo young pastors from Armenia, Pastor Avetik Khachatryan, Assistant Pastor of the Evangelical Church of Armenia (ECA) in Yerevan on Baghramyan Street, and Pastor Adom Simonyan, Pastor of the ECA in the town of Berd in Armenia, attended the Annual Meeting of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) held in San Francisco this year. After representing the ECA at the Armenian Evangelical World Council and AMAA Annual Meetings, they visited a number of Armenian Churches and institutions in California.

On November 2, the two Pastors, accompanied by Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, Pastor to Pastors of Evangelical Churches in Armenia, visited the C. & E. Merdinian

Armenian Evangelical School in Sherman Oaks, CA. They attended the morning chapel service where Pastor Adom Simonyan delivered a message to the students and encouraged them to live a Christian life.

Following the chapel service, the Pastors met with Principal Lina Arslanian, Merdinian School Board member Harold DeMirjian and Board Chairman Dr. Vahe Nalbandian. The visiting Pastors were pleased to observe the students converse in Armenian and participate in organized, daily chapel services held at the School. They expressed their deep appreciation for the valuable service being rendered by Merdinian School's staff and Board in educating young children in the Diaspora in the Armenian Evangelical tradition. □



*Pastor Adom Simonyan.*



*Pastors from Armenia at the C & E Merdinian School morning Worship Service.*



*Visiting with Rev. Dr. John Khanjian. L to R: Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, Pastor Avetik Khachatryan, Rev. Dr. John Khanjian and Pastor Adom Simonyan.*

## President Serzh Sargsyan Addresses the 70<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly in New York



**O**n September 29, RA President Serzh Sargsyan addressed the 70<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly in New York.


Upon the invitation of Republic of Armenia's United Nation's (UN) Ambassador Zohrab Mnatsakanian, AMAA's Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian attended the special session of the UN General Assembly. After the President's address Mr. Khanjian had an opportunity to chat with President Sargsyan on topics covering Armenia's border defenses to the crisis facing the Syrian Armenians. □

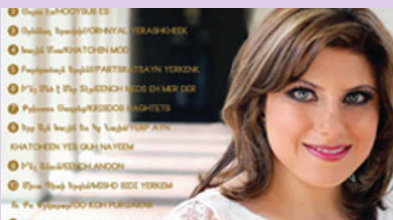


# CAMP ARMEN in Istanbul Returned to the Armenian Evangelical Church

On October 27, 2015 partial justice was established in Turkey with the return of The Youth Home of Istanbul's CAMP ARMEN, a summer camp in the Tuzla District of Istanbul to its rightful owner, The Armenian Evangelical Church of Gedik Pasa. Camp Armen was home to over 1,500 Armenian orphans who gathered from the depths of Anatolia following the war and was where Armenian-Turkish journalist Hrant Dink and his wife Rakel met, grew up and were married. The Camp was being demolished.

"May the mission of the audacious hero, Hrant Guzelian, and the legacy of Hrant Dink, reignite at Camp Armen with new generations of Armenian Youth walking the path of the Lord and may the 'homecoming' of the remnants vigorously resume," said Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the Armenian Missionary Association of America. "This correction of an egregious injustice is another chapter in the blessings of the Lord in this Genocide Centennial year and a victory for all Armenians. The AMAA reaffirms the continuation of its full-fledged support of the Camp and will closely work with the Armenian Protestant Church of Gedik Pasa to advance the mission of Camp Armen." □

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## Available from the AMAA Bookstore MARY BALIAN RELEASES NEW CD: HOOYSUS ES (YOU ARE MY HOPE)

Singer/songwriter Mary Balian has released her second CD of Armenian Christian contemporary music, *Hooyesus Es (You Are My Hope)*. The CD is a compilation of modern worship songs and hymns, as well as original songs written by Balian and her colleagues. *Hooyesus Es* was produced by Gilbert Hovsepien and sponsored by the Armenian ministry organization, Bashde.org, with additional support by individual donors and participating artists.

Mary is an Armenian-American singer/songwriter whose repertoire includes pop, world, dance, and contemporary Christian music. She is a graduate of UCLA and CSUN and is involved in ministry in the Los Angeles Armenian Evangelical community with her husband, Manny Saghbazarian, with whom she has two daughters.

Mary's first CD, *Bashdenk*, was a powerful release, which saw thousands of copies used for Armenian youth ministries around the world, to great impact.

Mary has performed internationally, including Armenia and across Southern California, most recently in a November concert in Los Angeles with her producer and songwriting partner, Gilbert Hovsepien, who recently and miraculously recovered from a severe motorcycle accident.

Each CD costs \$10.00 plus shipping and handling. To order, please fill out the form on page 39. CD item # 358. You may also order it online at [amaa.org/bookstore.htm](http://amaa.org/bookstore.htm)

# Armenian Evangelical Brethren Church of Glendale Celebrates 90 Years

By Nazeli Ekimyan

*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.*

**Matthew 5:14 ESV**

On October 26, church members, friends, family and guests gathered at Pearl Banquet Hall to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Brethren Church (AEBB). The Church, founded in 1925 in Los Angeles, CA moved to Glendale, CA in 2007.

The night of celebration began with a red carpet experience and included photos for all guests. The program officially began with remarks by Olia Hadidian and Sevag Shanlian, who thanked those present and gave a short preview of the evening. "When we think 90 years," said Mr. Shanlian, "we think, wow, that's a long time. But then we look back and see people and we think about their personal sacrifice, and we realize that this is the reason our Church has lasted so long. We carry on their legacy."

This idea of legacy was echoed by Reverend Ariel Babikian, who said during the invocation, "We continue not only for 90 years, but for 90 years plus one."

Throughout the evening, several Church members were recognized. One of the awards was the Lifetime of Service Award, which was given to Victoria Shanlian in recognition of her dedicated and exemplary service. Other awards included the Pastor's Legacy Award, which was awarded to Mr. & Mrs. George and Silva Chouchanian, the Afsharian Musical Award given to Mr. & Mrs. Mihran and Lusine Knadjian, and the Distinguished Service Award which was presented to Sarkis Ekimyan.

On this occasion, the Church received many accolades and letters of recognition which included congratulatory remarks from the offices of Governor Jerry Brown, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, Mayor of Glendale Ara Najarian, the Armenian Evangelical World



Zaven Khanjian addresses guests at the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Armenian Evangelical Brethren Church.

Council (AEWC), and the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA).

The perseverance and prosperity of the Church was recognized throughout the night, with several speakers noting what an outstanding accomplishment 90 years really is. Keynote Speaker Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) noted, "Anniversaries are milestones. They are milestones that give the opportunity to reflect, to evaluate, and then, as a result, re-energize and move forward in a new spirit. I congratulate you all this evening on this special occasion."

The night was also filled with recitations and several musical performances by New Hope's Raffi Kerbajian, Arpy Panossian-Aintablian, and Element Band. The musical selections filled the event with the spirit of joy and celebration for past accomplishments and hope for ones to come. The celebratory evening concluded with closing words from Rev. Dikran Shanlian Pastor of AEBB and the Benediction by Rev. Joseph Matossian.

**To God be the glory, great things He hath done. ☐**



**L to R:** Sevag Shanlian, Victoria Shanlian and Olia Hadidian cut the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cake. Mrs. Shanlian was honored with the Lifetime of Service Award.



Rev. Dikran Shanlian addresses the guests.



# Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown Celebrates 100th Anniversary

**T**he Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown, MA celebrated its 100th Anniversary with a Banquet on Saturday, September 26 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Woburn, and a special service and reception on Sunday, September 27 at the Church.

Former pastors, church leaders from the Armenian Evangelical Union and the Massachusetts Council of Churches and clergy from the Watertown community churches joined the congregation to celebrate at both events.

Keynote Speakers for the Banquet were the Church Pastor Rev. Dr. Avedis Boynerian and former Pastor Rev. Dr. Ron Tovmasian, of the United Armenian Congregational Church of Hollywood, CA.

Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, saluted the guests at the Banquet for spreading the Word of God to its children and its surrounding community. "Your faithfulness to the faith of our fathers, our unique culture, your loving and caring leadership and guidance of successive generations of youth over many decades fills our hearts with celebratory warmth and the hope for a brighter future," he said.

Soprano Kate Norigian accompanied by pianist John Norigian presented vocal selections. Harpist Sevan Sarian and violinist Mary Richardson serenaded guests during the cocktail hour, and guitarist John Baboian and his ensemble performed during the Banquet.

Rev. Laura Everett, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Council of Churches, and the Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, former Pastor and Executive Director of the Armenian Evangelical World Council, delivered the sermons during Sunday's Worship Service. Following the service, the congregation assembled in front of the Church to bury an anniversary time capsule. The day concluded with a reception and refreshments in the

Abrahamian Social Hall of the Church.

The Armenian Memorial Church origins trace back to seven Armenian immigrants from Marash, Turkey in 1897, and the gathering of more immigrant Armenian Protestant families who cherished their faith and began meeting for Bible studies. In 1915, they incorporated under the Massachusetts Congregational Church under the name Cilician Armenian Memorial Church; "Cilician" because they had come from the Cilicia region of Turkey, and "Memorial" for those lost in the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

The newly formed Church began holding Sunday afternoon services at the Shawmut Congregational Church in the South End of Boston and later at churches in Cambridge. Finally, in the late 1940s the congregation had accumulated enough money to buy a property at 32 Bigelow Avenue in Watertown, and built its own church. Construction began in 1950, and the first service in the sanctuary has held on November 4, 1950.

While the Armenian Memorial Church has been a congregation dedicated to its Christian values, it has extended its reach through missions to the community and the world. Its 100th Anniversary celebration marks "A Century of Faith." □



*Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO, greets the guests at the Banquet.*



*Rev. Dr. Avedis Boynerian, Pastor of the Armenian Memorial Church, and Zaven Khanjian (photo courtesy of Kataram).*

# St. Nareg Church Holds AMAA Sunday

On Sunday August 30, St. Nareg Church of Whittier CA held its annual AMAA Sunday.

Pastor Joe Garabedian and the Church elders invited members to attend the Worship Service to learn about the AMAA ministries in 24 countries. Levon Filian, AMAA West Coast Executive Director, thanked the congregation for its prayers and support, and delivered the Armenian Message during the Worship Service.

During the luncheon fellowship, Mr. Filian spoke about the AMAA ministries worldwide. Church members were very anxious to hear about the situation in Syria. They promised to pray for peace and financially support our brothers and sisters who are living under distress and fear.

The AMAA thanks St. Nareg Church and its congregation for raising funds to support the AMAA's mission in Syria. □



Pastor Joe Garabedian and Levon Filian.

Recently, Levon Filian, AMAA West Coast Executive Director, along with John Karagozian of Glendale, CA, visited Dr. Richard Kasper and his daughter Marilyn at his home in Newport Beach.

Mr. Filian also visited John and Muriel Hadidian and Dr. Avedis and Laura Khatchadourian in Princeton NJ.

The AMAA is grateful to all who support our ministries.



## SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2016, 5:00 PM

Under the Auspices of  
The Armenian Missionary Association of America

Lark Musical Society  
presents

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

**ST. MATTHEW PASSION**

(Sung in the original German, with English and Armenian supertitles)

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LARK MASTER SINGERS AND SOLOISTS  
"TZIATZAN" CHILDREN'S CHOIR  
AND THE LARK ORCHESTRAS

Conducted by  
**VATSCHÉ BARSOUMIAN**





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## Armenian Christian Fellowship of Orange County Shares Good News of Christ since 1988

On Sunday, November 8, the Armenian Christian Fellowship of Orange County (ACFOC) welcomed Levon Filian, AMAA West Coast Executive Director, to participate in its Worship Service and share with them information on AMAA ministries. Daniel Goglanian brought the message and Mr. Filian gave the children's message and presented a video about the AMAA ministries. The service was followed by a luncheon and fellowship.

The Armenian Christian Fellowship of Orange County (ACFOC) was formed because of a deeply felt burden to reach the unchurched Armenians in Orange County, CA with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In 1988, a few families met regularly in a home to pray and seek God's guidance. Shortly thereafter, Friday evening services began at a local church facility and services were held in both Armenian and English. There were nearly 40 regular attendees including children. Sunday services began on Easter 1991, and the ACFOC was legally established in 1993.

The first pastor at ACFOC was Rev. Daniel Albarian who faithfully served the congregation until 1998. He was succeeded by Rev. Dr. George Chakarji who assumed the ACFOC pulpit and graciously served the Church until 2005. From 2005 to 2013, Rev. Dr. Donald Sunukjian devotedly served as

head Pastor at ACFOC. In 2013, Rev. Shant Abadjian became Senior Pastor, and along with Assistant Pastor David Azzizian, they lovingly serve and shepherd the Church.

The ACFOC congregation has been, and is involved in many forms of community outreach, both here and around the world. Today the services include a blend of English and Armenian for prayer, scripture, and contemporary worship, with sermon translation available for non-English speaking congregants. As the Church grew, leaders established Men's and Women's Ministries, Weekly Bible Studies, Couple's and Single's Groups, Small Group Ministries, Children's and Youth Ministries, and Vacation Bible School. Over the years many Evangelical Outreaches, concerts, conferences, and Inter-church sporting events have been held, all with the goal of reaching the Armenian Community. The ACFOC Missions Team also sponsored a mission to Armenia to minister to the local churches as well as to bring aid to refugees.

By God's grace and providence, the ACFOC remains committed to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with Armenians and their friends throughout Orange County and the world, so that it



might reach the nations through the love of Christ.

The AMAA thanks the Fellowship for its prayers and support. □

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## Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ Holds AMAA Sunday

On September 20, the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ organized an AMAA Mission Sunday with AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian preaching during the morning service. In his message he focused the collective attention of the congregation on all those less fortunate who are disbursed in 24 countries around the world, where the AMAA serves. Its support base carries the Word of God, in parcel with many projects and missions in places dominated by fear, ignorance and darkness – by feeding them, educating them, caring for them, providing a

place of worship for them and teaching them to worship the Lord and be thankful for His eternal love of mankind.

At the conclusion of his message Mr. Khanjian said, "We continue and will continue to pray for providential peace in the world but simultaneously vow to continue to support our embattled communities until the rainbow of peace rises again on the horizon in the Middle East or elsewhere and peace reins over the world. And I have no second thought that that kind of behavior emanates from the example of the miracles of Jesus on earth and that's what my Lord wants me to do today." □







# Let Us Continue to Support the Syrian Armenians

**W**e are not fatalist, nor pessimist by nature, and yet after four years of the Syrian conflict, and the seemingly resolute interference of a great world power, so convoluted are the knots, so dark the layers, so profound the conflict and so widespread the polarization, that no learned person or self-proclaimed expert can foretell the outcome of the catastrophe that befell us Armenians, striking Syria and the Syrian Armenians.

Everyone is an actor. There is no country, political movement or alliance on the globe that hasn't taken a stand, or more correctly, made to take a stand, vis-à-vis this ordeal.

If you're confused, don't be surprised. You're not alone.

So powerful, potent, willful and determined seem to be the obstinate masters from behind the curtains that there's no immediate hope of peace on the horizon.

If only we were mistaken. Nevertheless, a cruel conclusion doesn't seem to be very illogical. The hour continues to be mortal. CRITICAL.

If the fire and destruction, explosions and bombs, the armed and the mercenary are parading in Paris or Brussels today, they have long been the cause of the misery to millions of innocent civilians in Syria including our communities, especially Aleppo.

When they are living the anxiety of defenseless self-defense, WE SHOULD GO ON THE OFFENSIVE.

In a constructive spirit, LET US BECOME ACTIVE, swift and self-conscious of the need.

Let us support our kin to sustain and survive.

LET US SUPPORT THE SYRIAN ARMENIANS.

Won't you mail your gift of life today?



## **Yes, I would like to Support the Syrian Armenians.**

Enclosed is my gift in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your tax-deductible check payable to Armenian Missionary Association of America, Memo: Syria Relief and mail to AMAA, 31 W. Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652. To make a contribution with a credit/debit card, please visit AMAA's website, [amaa.org](http://amaa.org) or call AMAA at 201.265.2607.



## ՀԱՅ ԱԻԵՏԱՐԱՆԱԿԱՆ ՕՐ Գանատայի Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիներ

Վեր. Յովհաննէս Սվաճեան

Շաբաթ, 11 Յուլիս 2015-ին, «Հայ Աւետարանական Օր»-ու անդադան հանդիպումը տեղի ունեցաւ Portland United Church-ի շրջափակէն ներս, կ.ա. ժամը 11-էն սկսեալ: Մասնակցեցան Գանատայի Հայ Աւետարանական Ընկերակցութեան հիմնադիր չորս (Գէյմպրիձ, Թորոնթօ, եւ Մոնթրէալ 2) Եկեղեցիներէն խումբ մը հաւատացեալներ:

Բարիգալուստի խօսք ուղղեց Portland United Church-ի տեղոյն հովիւը՝ Վեր. Թագուհի Տէմիրճեան-Փետրօ, որուն շրջափակէն ներս ունեցանք օրուան պաշտամունքները, ժողովը եւ ճաշը:

Պրն. Միհրան Ճիգմէճեան (Գանատայի Հայ Աւետարանական Ընկերակցութեան՝ AMAC-ի Նախագահը) կատարեց բացման խօսքը եւ հակիրճ կերպով բացատրեց օրուան յայտագրին եւ հաւաքին նպատակին մասին: Պաշտամունքը առաջնորդեց Պրն. Բաֆֆի Շնորհօքեան, ներկաները խանդավառութեամբ երգեցին Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիի Հոգեւոր երգարանէն փունջ մը երգեր, դաշնակի ընկերակցութեամբ՝ Օրդ. Նազանի Սվաճեանի: Օրուան պատգամաբերն էր Վեր. Դոկտ. Ռընէ Լեւոնեան՝ որ վեց ամսուայ ծառայութեան շրջանի մը համար կը գտնուէր Թորոնթօ՝ տեղոյն Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիի թափուր բեմին ծառայելու: Իր պատգամին մէջ Վեր. Լեւոնեան՝ իր ծառայութեան ընդմէջէն, շեշտեց Հայց. Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիին կեանքը, եւ վեր առաւ անոր կենսունակ հաւատքը, գործօն առաքելութիւնը, հաւատացեալներուն միաբանութեան հրատապ հարցը եւ այսօրուան մեր ընելիք գործին անհրաժեշտութիւնը: Անոր պատգամէն ետք Վեր. Մանուէլ Ճինպաշեան մատուց աղօթք եւ տուաւ վկայութիւն մը Պարսկաստանի Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիի կեանքէն:

Կէսօրուայ ճաշէն ետք՝ ազատ պահ էր, որուն ընթացքին ներկաները մեկնեցան շրջանի տեսարժան մէկ քանի վայրեր: Ազատ պահէն ետք, կ.ե. ժամը 3.00-ին խումբը հաւաքուեցաւ՝ Գանատայի Հայ Աւետարանական Ընկերակցութեան Տարեկան Ժողովի համար: Կարճ հիւրասիրութեան պահէ մը ետք ներկայացուեցաւ Գանատայի Հայ Աւետարանական



Ընկերակցութեան նիւթա-բարոյական տեղեկագիրը: Պրն. Միհրան Ճիգմէճեան կարդաց անոր տարեկան գործունէութիւններուն մասին եւ Պրն. Յակոբ Պասմաճեան Ընկերակցութեան Գանձապահը, ներկայացուց 2014 տարուան հաշուեկշիռը:

Օրուան յայտագրին աւարտին՝ տեղի ունեցաւ Հաղորդութեան Խորհուրդի մատակարարութիւնը: Երգ մը երգուելէն ետք՝ Վեր. Ճօրճ Տապօ (Մոնթրէալի Հայ Աւետարանական Ա. Եկեղեցիի Հովիւ) եւ Վեր. Յովհաննէս Սվաճեան (Մոնթրէալի Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիի Հովիւ), մասնակցութեամբ՝ Վերք. Յովհաննէս եւ Եսայի Սարմազեաններու մատակարարեցին Հաղորդութեան Խորհուրդի արարողութիւնը: Թորոնթոյի Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիի սարկաւազները սպասարկեցին Հաղորդութեան սեղանին:

Ներկայ էին աւելի քան՝ 120 անհատներ: Օրուան յայտագիրը վերջ գտաւ կ.ե. ժամը 5.00-ին խմբային նկարով մը:

Փառք կու տանք Աստուծոյ այս բացառիկ Քրիստոնէական հաղորդակցութեան համար Գանատայի Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիներու միջեւ: Փափաքելի է որ Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիի Հիմնադրութեան (1846) 170-ամեակին առիթով, 2016 տարուան ընթացքին կրկին կազմակերպուի Հայ Աւետարանական Օրը եւ ներկաներու աւելի մեծ թիւով մը Տէրը փառաբանուի: □

# Երեք Թարգմանություններ

Դոկտ. Շահէ Ընորիօքեան

**Ի**բրեւ Հայեր, աշխարհի ամէն կողմ, Հոկտեմբեր ամսուն կը նշենք Հայոց Թարգմանչաց տօնը եւ կը յիշենք մեր առաջին թարգմանիչները՝ Մեսրոպ Մաշտոցը եւ իր աշակերտները, եւ իրենց նեցուկ կանգնող կաթողիկոսը՝ Սահակ Պարթեւ, որոնք մեր պատմութեան ընթացքը հիմնովին փոխեցին իրենց աշխատանքներով: Փառք եւ շնորհակալութիւն Աստուծոյ՝ մեր ժողովուրդին պարգեւած լեզուական եւ մշակութային հարստութեան համար:

## Թարգմանչաց

Իբրեւ հայեր, պէտք է անդրադառնանք թէ Թարգմանչացը շատ հաւանաբար մեր կարեւորագոյն տօնն է ոչ թէ միայն որովհետեւ սկիզբն է հայոց մէջ հաւատքի տարածման եւ մշակոյթի վերելքին, այլ՝ պարզապէս որովհետեւ գումարումն է երկու ուրիշ կարեւոր դէպքերու: Ասոնք են Քրիստոնէութեան իբրեւ պետական կրօնքի հաստատումը 300-ական թուականներու առաջին տասնամեակին մէջ, եւ գիրերու գիտը՝ մօտ 100 տարիներ ետք:

Քրիստոնէութեան մուտքը Հայաստան տարբեր ուղիի հետեւեցաւ բաղդատած Տէր Յիսուսի համբարձումէն ետք առաքելներուն ձեռամբ առաջին եկեղեցիին տարածման: Այսինքն՝ երբ արքունի ընտանիքը Քրիստոնէութիւնը պետական կրօնք հռչակեց, Հայաստանի մէջ գոյութիւն չունէին բնիկ տեղական եկեղեցիներ. գրեթէ ամբողջ ժողովուրդը կը հետեւէր Զրադաշտականութեան մէկ ճիւղին որուն միացում էր տեղական հաւատամքներ եւ սովորութիւններ: Հայաստանի պետութիւնը կը կազմուէր Պարթեւ Արշակունիներու եւ Հայ նախարարներու ընտանիքներու կողմէ, իսկ Հայ եկեղեցւոյ հիմնադիրը եւ անդրանիկ կաթողիկոսը Պարթեւ Գրիգոր Լուսաւորիչն էր՝ թագաւորին հօրեղբորորդին: Հակառակ անոնց անխոնջ աշխատանքին, ժողովուրդին մեծամասնութիւնը պահեցին իրենց նախնիքներու հաւատքը եւ

Քրիստոնէութիւնը չդարձաւ ազգային կրօնք՝ սահմանուած մնալով արքունի ընտանիքին եւ եկեղեցիին մէջ: Պատճառը այն էր թէ Հայերը չունէին իրենց տառերը եւ հետեւաբար գրականութեան համար պէտք էր դիմէին կամ Յունարէնի եւ կամ Ասորերէնի, որոնց միջոցաւ կը կատարուէին Կիրակի օրուայ պաշտամունքները եւ Աստուածաշունչի ընթերցումը: Այս երկու լեզուները ժողովուրդին կողմէ անհասկնալի էին եւ նոր հաւատքին մանրամասնութիւնները անոնցմէ հեռու մնացած էին: Քրիստոնէութեան շատ սահմանաբաւ տարածման փաստերէն մէկը այն է թէ հիմնադրութենէն ետք առաջին 130 տարիներու ընթացքին, Հայ եկեղեցւոյ կաթողիկոսները մեծ մասամբ օտարներ էին: Գրիգոր Լուսաւորիչի Պարթեւ ընտանիքը (մօտ 100 տարի) մեծագոյն խումբը կը կազմէր (Արիստակէս, Վրթանէս, Յուսիկ, Մեծն Ներսէս, եւ Սահակ Պարթեւ), սակայն կային նաեւ Աղուանացիներ եւ Ասորիներ: Ասոր համար 400-ական թուականներու սկիզբը, Մեսրոպ Մաշտոց փնտրտութիւններէ եւ կազմեց Հայ գիրերը, միակ նպատակ ունենալով անտարանչութիւն ընել Հայ ժողովուրդին մէջ եւ Աստուածաշունչը թարգմանել այն ժամանակներու Հայերէնի, այսինքն՝ գրաբարի: Այբուբեններու պատմութեան մէջ եզակի օրինակ մըն է Հայոց պարագան, ուր գիրեր կազմուած են լոկ իբրեւ հաւատքի տարածման մեքենայ ծառայելու:

Այս երկու դէպքերուն – Քրիստոնէութեան պետական կրօնք հռչակուելուն եւ գիրերու գիտին – իբրեւ արդիւնք, 430-ական թուականներուն սկսաւ թարգմանութեան աշխատանքը նախ՝ Աստուածաշունչէն եւ ապա փիլիսոփայութեան, գիտութեան, եկեղեցական պատմութեան, եւ սուրբերու կեանքերու





շատ մը գրութիւններուն հասնելով: Նոր մշակոյթի վերելք մը տեղի ունեցաւ որ տոկաց Վարդանանց պատերազմէն 20 տարիներ ետք, եւ անկէ անդին առաջնորդեց հայոց ոսկեդարին:

## Հայ Աւետարանական Թարգմանչաց

Իբրեւ Հայեր, հպարտ պէտք է ըլլանք մեր հին թարգմանիչներով: Իբրեւ Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիներ, պէտք է նաեւ յիշենք մեր եկեղեցւոյ թարգմանչացը, որոնք 19-րդ դարուն Աստուածաշունչը վերածեցին աշխարհաբարի: Անոնք գործեցին ոչ միայն իբրեւ օգնականներ եւ ապա մասնագէտ թարգմանիչներ, այլ սատարեցին աշխարհաբարի յառաջացման Աստուածաշունչի առօրեայ գործածութեամբ պաշտամունքներու, աղօթածողովներու, քարոզներու, Կիրակնօրեայ դպրոցի, եւ աւետարանչութեան միջոցաւ: Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցւոյ դերին նկատմամբ շատ մը վկայութիւններ կան Հայ գրականութեան մասնագէտներու կողմէ: Դիւրին չէր իրենց ընթացքը մանաւանդ երբ արդէն սուր պայքար տեղի կ'ունենար Հայ ժողովուրդին մէջ աշխարհաբարի եւ գրաբարի գործածութեան նկատմամբ: Եկեղեցական առաջնորդներ կ'աշխատէին պահել գրաբարը իսկ երիտասարդ մտաւորականներ, ուսանած ըլլալով Եւրոպա եւ ծանօթանալով այնտեղի գրականութեան ոճին եւ լեզուին, կ'ուզէին հաստատել աշխարհաբարը իբրեւ գրական լեզու: Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին մտաւորական պայքարի մը չէր մասնակցեր, այլ պարզապէս կը ջանար Աստուածաշունչը եւ հաւատքը հասկնալի դարձնել ժողովուրդին, ճիշդ նոյն նպատակին ձգտելով որ Մեսրոպ Մաշտոց հետապնդած էր 1400 տարի առաջ: Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին գործունէութիւններու մղիչ ոյժը իր հիմնական սկզբունքներն էին որոնք կ'ամփոփուէին հետեւեալ ձեւով.

1. Հաւատք եւ Քրիստոնէական դաստիարակութիւն անձնական որոշումներու արդիւնքն էին:
2. Հաւատքի միակ հիմը եւ ուղեցոյցը Աստուածաշունչն էր:
3. Հետեւաբար, Աստուածաշունչը պէտք էր ըլլար հասկնալի ամէնուն կողմէ եւ մատչելի՝ ամէն անձի:

Այս սկզբունքներու իբրեւ արդիւնք, Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին Աստուածաշունչը եւ կամ առանձին աւետարաններ թարգմանեց Օսմանեան Կայսրութեան մէջ ապրող Հայ ժողովուրդին հասկցած լեզուներուն՝ Հայերէն եւ հայատառ թրքերէն: Նոյնիսկ որոշ շրջաններու համար, (օրինակ՝ Զէյթուն), փոքր քանակով թարգմանութիւններ եղան տեղական գաւառաբարբառով: Հայերէնէ զատ եւ աւետարանչութեան հեռանկարով, Աստուածաշունչի թարգմանութիւններ

հրատարակուեցան նաեւ Օսմանեան Թրքերէնով, Յունատառ Թրքերէնով, Քրտերէնով, Արաբերէնով, եւ Ալպաներէնով:

## Մեծագոյն Թարգմանիչը

Թարգմանութիւնները կրնան ըլլալ լեզուական եւ կամ իմաստային եւ բացատրողական: Երբ երկու երկիրներու ղեկավարներ կը հանդիպին քաղաքական ժողովի մը ընթացքին, իրենց թարգմանիչները ոչ միայն պէտք է լեզուական թարգմանութիւններ կարենան կատարել այլ նաեւ՝ իմաստային եւ կամ մշակութային: Որոշ ասացուածք մը պէտք է նոյն նշանակութիւնը կրէ երկու ղեկավարներուն համար, իւրաքանչիւրին մշակութային ենթահողին վրայ հիմնուած:

Հայոց այս երկու Թարգմանչաց խումբերը մեծ դեր ունեցան հաւատքը տարածելու մեր ժողովուրդին մէջ բայց իրենց գործը սահմանուած էր լեզուական թարգմանութեան՝ նախ Յունարենէ եւ Ասորերէնէ գրաբարի, եւ ապա գրաբարէ աշխարհաբարի: Սակայն ամէնէն կարեւոր թարգմանութիւնը, որ տեղի ունեցաւ 2000 տարիներ առաջ, մեկնաբանական եւ աստուածաբանական էր եւ ոչ թէ լեզուական: Երբ Տէր Յիսուս Իր առաքելութիւնը սկսաւ, մարդոց մտքին մէջ հաւատքի ուղեցոյցը մանրակրկիտ օրէնքներու շարք մըն էր, որոնց պէտք էր հետեւիլ: Անոնց վրայ աւելցուած էր ուրիշ շատ մը մեկնաբանութիւններ կամ բացատրութիւններ օրէնքի մասնագէտներու կողմէ, որոնց ամէնէն նշանաւորները փարիսեցիներն էին: Օրինակի համար, քանի որ բժշկի մը ապրուստի ճամբան դարմանում էր, բժշկելը եւ դարմանումը «գործ» կը համարուէին: Նմանապէս երկրագործի մը եկամուտը կը կայանար ցանելու եւ հնձելու մէջ. ուրեմն ասիկա «գործ» կը համարուէր: Ասոր համար փարիսեցիները Տէր Յիսուսի բարկացան երբ Ան Ծաբաթ օրով չորցած ձեռք ունեցող մարդ մը բժշկեց եւ կամ անոր աշակերտները տեսնուեցան ցորենի հասկ հաւաքելու եւ ուտելու առաքին մէջ Ծաբաթ օրով: Ներկայիս ալ կան կրօնքներ եւ կամ կրօնական մեկնաբանութիւններ ուր Աստուծոյ հաճելի ըլլալը կը նշանակէ երկար ցանկի մը վրայ դրուած պարտաւորութիւնները կատարել:

Տէր Յիսուս, իր աստուածային հեղինակութեամբ, այս բոլորը փոխեց: Լերան Քարոզը աւետարաններուն ամէնէն ծանօթ եւ կարդացուած հատուածներէն մէկն է, սակայն գրեթէ երբեք չենք անդրադարձար թէ Տէրը ճիշդ ի՞նչ կ'ըսէ կամ կ'ուսուցանէ Մատթ. 5. 7-41 համարներուն մէջ: Ան կը վերցնէ Տասնաբանեային եւ Հնգամատեանին մեծագոյն պատուիրանները եւ զանոնք կը վերաթարգմանէ եւ վերափոխուի: Հին Ուխտին համաձայն սպաննութիւնը մեղք էր, սակայն ըստ Տէր Յիսուսի նոր բացատրութեան՝ պարապ տեղ

եղբոր սրդողեցնելը եւ անարգելը նոյն կշիռքի մեղք կը նկատուի: Հին Ուխտին համաձայն շնութիւնը մեղք էր բայց Լեւան Քարոզը կ'ըսէ թէ ուրիշ անձի մը միայն ցանկութեամբ նայիլը արդէն նոյն մեղքը կը համարուի: Հին Ուխտին համաձայն պէտք էր թշնամին ատել եւ բարեկամը սիրել բայց ըստ Տէրոջ վերատեսութեան, պէտք է թշնամին սիրել: Ոչ միայն այս հատուածին այլ շատ մը ուրիշներու մէջ կը տեսնենք Տէր Յիսուսի յստակ, շարունակական, եւ դիտումնաւոր վերաթարգմանութիւնները Հին Կտակարանին օրէնքին համեմատ: Երբ Անոր աշակերտներուն համար ըսուեցաւ թէ ծոմ չեն պահեր ըստ օրէնքին, Տէր Յիսուս բացատրեց թէ անհնար էր հարսնիքի ատեն (Իր ներկայութեան) ծոմապահութիւն ընելը: Ըստ Մովսէսի օրէնքին պէտք էր տասանորդ տալ, սակայն Տէրը շատ յարեւանցի կերպով արժեւորեց մարդոց օրինաւոր նուէրները, կեդրոնաճալով որքեւայրիին տուածին վրայ որ 100 տոկոս էր եւ ոչ թէ 10: Վերջապէս, ըստ Հին Ուխտին կենդանիներ պէտք էր զոհ մատուցանել կանոնաւոր կերպով առ ի մեղքերու խոստովանութեան եւ ներողութեան արտայայտութիւն: Սակայն Տէր Յիսուս Ինքը զոհ եղաւ մէկ անգամ ընդ միշտ բոլոր մարդկանց մեղքերուն համար եւ վերջ դրաւ շարունակական զոհ մատուցանելու առարողութեան. այս էր տաճարին վարագոյրի պատուելուն յստակ պատգամը քանի որ անհնար էր այլեւս զոհ մատուցանել երբ սրբութիւն սրբութեանց սենեակը չեր զատուած դուրսի աշխարհէն:

Ուրեմն ի՞նչ է եզրակացութիւնը. օրէնք չկայ եւ ուզածնիս կրնա՞նք ընել: Դուրսէն դիտողը կրնայ այս տպաւորութիւնը առնել անշուշտ: Ծատ անգամ լսած ենք որ մարդիկ մեզի կ'ըսեն «Ի՞նչ դիրքին է ձեր կրօնքը՝ Քրիստոնէութիւնը. ուտելիքի օրէնքներ չունիք, կրնաք խմիչք խմել, միսը որոշ ձեւով պէտք չունիք պատրաստելու, օրը որոշ անգամներ աղօթքի պարտաւորութիւն չկայ, եւ պարտաւոր չէք հեռու ուխտատեղիներ այցելելու»: Մենք պէտք է պատասխանենք անկեղծօրէն «Ծատ լաւ. եթէ այսչափ դիրքին է, ինչո՞ւ Քրիստոնէայ չէք դարձար: Թէ մենք կ'ուրախանանք եւ թէ երկնքի թագաւորութիւնը»: Սակայն իրականութիւնը այն է թէ Տէր Յիսուս իր վերաթարգմանութեամբ օրէնքէն շատ աւելի դժուար պայմաններ դրաւ: Փոխանակ գոհանալով մեղքի ֆիզիքական արտայայտութիւնները արգիլելով, Ան կանխեց անոնց ետին կեցող մտքի եւ սրտի իրավիճակը եւ բուն պատճառը: Հին Ուխտը միայն կրնար պատժել երբ մեղքը արտաքին երեւոյթի վերածուէր, օրինակ՝ գողութիւն, սպաննութիւն, շնութիւն, արգիլուած կերակուրներ ուտել, եւայլն: Նոր Թարգմանութեան համեմատ անոնց ետին կեցող անտեսանելի խորհուրդներն ալ նոյնչափ դատապարտելի էին: Եթէ

հիւանդանանք, կը ջանանք այցելել բժիշկ մը ոչ թէ միայն ցաւի դեղ առնելու համար այլ շիտակ ախտաճանաչումի եւ բուն պատճառի դարմանումի համար: Երբ ինքնաշարժը տարօրինակ ձայն մը հանէ, բարձր երաժշտութիւն դնելով զայն չենք խեղդէր այլ մասնագէտին կը տանինք որպէսզի պէտք եղած նորոգութիւնը ընէ: Եթէ մեր առօրեային մէջ կը ջանանք հարցերուն արմատային լուծում գտնել, որչափ աւելի լրջութեամբ պէտք է հոգեւոր եւ մտային մեղքերու նկատմամբ հիմնական փոփոխութիւններ ընել: Ըստ Տէր Յիսուսի նոր բացատրութեանց, բաւական չէ սպաննութիւն չ'ընել եւ կամ բարեկամը սիրել, այլ պէտք է անոնց առաջնորդող բարկութիւնը եւ ատելութիւնը կանխել: Ո՞ր մէկը աւելի դժուար է. ֆիզիքական թէ հոգեկան այս օրէնքը: Ո՞րն է աւելի դժուարը. մեր ունեցածին 10 տոկոսը տալ եւ կամ ամբողջ մեր ունեցածը:

## Եզրափակութիւն

Երկու հազար տարի առաջ մեր Տէրը վերաթարգմանութեան ենթարկեց Աստուծոյ հաճելի կեանք ապրելու ձեւը: Մօտ 1600 տարիներ առաջ մեր ազգին առաջին թարգմանիչները այս Բարի Լուրը հայ ժողովուրդին բերին գիրերու գիտով եւ անոր հետեւող աշխատութեամբ: Եւ մօտ 170 տարիներ առաջ, Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցւոյ թարգմանիչները Աստուածաշունչը վերածեցին աշխարհաբարի երբ գրաբարը այլեւս դադրած էր հասկնալի ըլլալ ժողովուրդին մեծամասնութեան կողմէ: Այս երեք թարգմանութիւնները այսօր մեզի տուած են ամէն ինչ որ պէտք ունինք մեր հաւատքի կեանքը ապրելու համար: Չորրորդի մը պէտք չկայ ներկայիս, այլ պէտք է գոյութիւն ունեցող երեք թարգմանութիւնները ապրիլ եւ կատարել: Այս դարու մարդիկ դժբախտաբար ժամանակ չունին կարդալու եւ կամ լսելու այս թարգմանութիւններուն եւ անոնց պատգամին մասին: Հետեւաբար եթէ պնդենք որ չորրորդ թարգմանութիւն մը պէտք է ընել, անհկա մեր հաւատքի կեանքի եւ հոգեկան արժէքներու ցոլացումը թող ըլլայ: Նոյնիսկ եթէ մարդոց համար դժուար ըլլայ կարդալ առաջին երեք թարգմանութիւնները, անոնք մեզ կը դիտեն եւ շատ լաւ կը կարդան եւ կը հասկնան մեր ապրած կեանքերը եւ այն արժէքները որոնք մեզի համար կարեւորագոյնն են:

Լաւագոյն ձեւը մեր Տէրոջը հետեւելու եւ շնորհակալութիւն յայտնելու մեր ազգին եւ եկեղեցւոյ Թարգմանչացին անոնց մեզի հասցուցած պատգամը մեր կեանքերով վկայելն է: □

\*Դոկտ. Ծահէ Ծնորհօքեան անդամ է Մոնթրէալի Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիին եւ Դասախօս Մոնթրէալի Մըքհիլ Համալսարանի:



## Rev. Jean Agopian

Rev. Jean Agopian, veteran Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Union of France, passed away October 7, 2015 at the Montéleger Retirement in France. He was 90.



Jean was born on March 27, 1925, soon after his parents emigrated to Marseille. His father Avedis worked in the mines of Biver, near Gardanne and the family's small house near the mines was used as a place of worship. Jean also worked in the mines. Later, the family moved to Aix, where he married Noëlie Boyajian of St. Loup in 1948. In Aix, they were noticed by a family of Christians who took a liking to them and helped them in many ways. Jean took evening courses at the theological faculty of Aix and in 1958 they moved to the Grand'Combe, in Gard, in the Reformed Evangelical Churches.

In 1973, Rev. Samuel Bakalian of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Beaumont, invited Rev. Agopian to become his Assistant Pastor. He later became Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Churches of Lyon and Décines, and finally Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of St. Loup where he served until his retirement.

After his retirement, he fully supported his wife Noëlie, who was suffering from Alzheimer's disease. He wanted to bear it alone, refusing several times his son Daniel's request to come to Valence so that they could help them out. Noëlie died on Mother's Day in 2010.

In April 2015, Rev. Agopian finally agreed to leave the Armenian Evangelical Church of Beaumont in Marseille, as well as his friends to live in Drôme at the Montéleger Retirement Home. The Home warmly welcomed him. However, following a sharp deterioration in his spine, he was forced to use a wheelchair. It was the beginning of his end. After hospitalization for pulmonary embolism, Rev. Agopian passed peacefully in his sleep as he had asked for and the Lord completely and definitively granted it to him.

Over the years in his ministry, Rev. Agopian faithfully served his people. He loved being around people, brothers and sisters in Christ. He also traveled extensively in the context of our mission throughout Europe. Evangelization was his life until the end. Before he left Marseille, he would distribute Gospel tracts near bus stops near his home.

A funeral service was held on October 12 at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Beaumont where he was also buried. □

## Zohrab Heghinian

Zohrab Heghinian, a pharmacist and former columnist for the Armenian Reporter weekly newspaper, passed away in Clifton Park, NY on April 24, 2015.

Born in Aleppo, Syria on March 3, 1935, he was the son of Genocide



survivors from Marash. His early days were spent in the Armenian community in Aleppo where he was involved in the Bethel Armenian Evangelical Church. As a teen and adult, Zohrab was known among friends and family as the one who could sing and his family was always surrounded with music and culture. He attended the American University of Beirut in Lebanon and graduated with a degree in pharmacy. He later settled in upstate New York where he opened a pharmacy in Troy, NY and lived for many years in Latham, NY.

Zohrab was constantly reading and writing and travelled to Armenia on numerous occasions. He was always involved in the church or Armenian community where he lived.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife Vartouhi, his parents Ohanness and Nevart Heghinian and his eldest sister, Lydia. He is survived by his son Hovig Heghinian and his wife Isabelle Bedrosian and their children Rosemarie and Clarisse, his daughter Sandra Adourian and her husband Ardag and their children Aida and Edward, and his brothers Krikor and his wife Mary, and Aram and his wife Gwentyth.

A memorial service was held at the Armenian Memorial Church, Watertown, MA on May 7 where many friends and extended family gathered to celebrate his life and to remember his loving, nurturing legacy. □

## Yevnige Salibian

Yevnige Aposhian Salibian, a 101 year old Genocide survivor, passed away in Mission Hills, CA on August 29, 2015.

Born in Aintab, Turkey on January 14, 1914, Yevnige was one of the few remaining survivors of the Armenian Genocide. She was the oldest of seven Aposhian children and fled with her family from Turkey to Syria to Lebanon to escape the Genocide and other Armenian massacres. At age seven, she was physically saved via a midnight escape by horse drawn carriage. After her mother passed away at an early age from malaria, she helped raise her siblings, praying with them and teaching them the Bible.

Yevnige graduated from the Armenian Evangelical School for Girls in Beirut, Lebanon and, at age 21, married Rev. Vahram Salibian. They served together throughout Lebanon, ministering to refugees, orphans, the blind and the crippled, to students and in churches. They raised six children and also planted a new church in Nor Amanos, Bourdj Hammoud, Lebanon, "Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel Church," which still thrives today.

In 1976, they came to the United States, eventually settling in San Jose, CA. Together she and Rev. Salibian continued to serve the Lord, ministering to families and serving people in homes. She loved to garden, cook,



exercise, crochet, write, read, sing, laugh and spend time with family and friends.

In 2006, she moved to the Ararat Home, a retirement community in Los Angeles. There she prayed with the residents and staff, led Bible studies and devotionals, encouraged the elderly and made everyone laugh with her sharp wit and humor.

During the recent Genocide Centennial commemorations, Yevnige was able to share her journey of faith with thousands of people including the Mayor of Los Angeles, clergy, politicians and celebrities. Because she could clearly remember, coherently communicate and vividly describe her escape, she was interviewed during the last year of her life by many reporters for countless articles published around the world and was asked to speak at various events commemorating the Centennial.

Yevnige's life continues through all she served and mothered emotionally, physically and spiritually. She was predeceased by Rev. Salibian in 1995 and is survived by 43 descendants: five children, Armine, Araxie, Shoushan, Hrag Sam and John, (her son Norair was tragically killed in 1960 in a bus accident along with 21 of his high school classmates), 11 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren. Many of her descendants now serve as missionaries, pastors, chaplains and ministry workers.

A funeral service was held in San Jose, CA in early September and a memorial service will be held in Los Angeles at the end of December 2015. □

**The AMAA Board of Directors and the staff wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends.**

- |                                                 |                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| * Haiganoush Apelian<br>Los Angeles, CA         | * Aznive Melkisetian<br>Newtown Square, PA |
| * Araxie Bagian<br>Springfield, MA              | * Barbara Papazian<br>Worcester, MA        |
| * Heron Bogosian<br>Fresno, CA                  | * Sue Paul<br>San Francisco, CA            |
| * Rose Boyadjian<br>Issy Les Moulineaux, France | * Thomas Prather<br>Sun City West, AZ      |
| * Sossy Chalian Akatcherian<br>Westchester, CA  | * Edward Sarkisian<br>Cliffside Park, NJ   |
| * Yester Gulesserian<br>New York                | * Rose Van Dyke<br>San Jose, CA            |
| * Samuel V. Hagopian<br>Houston, TX             | * Edward Zobian<br>Wyomissing, PA          |

\* Memorials designated for AMAA

BOOKS

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**ARMENIAN CHRISTIANITY - THE FAITH OF A NATION**, by Rev. Dr. Aaron Sapsejian, *A historical look at Christianity in the Armenian culture.* pb #252 ..... \$10.00

**ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL MOVEMENT - HISTORY, FAITH AND MISSION**, by Rev. Barkev N. Darakjian, *The book consists of two parts: Armenian Evangelical Movement and General Articles*, 249 pp, pb #341 ..... \$15.00

**THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL WORLD COUNCIL**, by Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, *A Bilingual Book, is the History of the Armenian Evangelical World Council from its inception in 1978 through the year 2014.* pp. 397, hc #CO356 ..... \$35.00

**THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE**, Compiled and edited by Wolfgang Gust. *Evidence from the German Foreign Office Archives, 1915-1916*, 800 pp, hc #349 ..... \$75.00

**ARMENIAN NEEDLELACE & EMBROIDERY**, by Alice Odian Kasparian, *A photographic collection of more than 100 priceless specimens (a third in color)*, 127 pp, hc #120 ..... \$15.00

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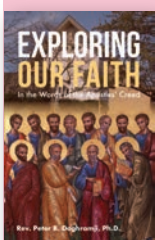
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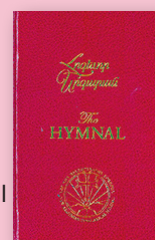
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*Save The Date*  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2016**

*2<sup>th</sup>*

**AMAA CHILD & ORPHAN CARE  
CHILDREN'S FASHION SHOW**

**The Beverly Hills Hotel**

**To insure your child's participation please contact**

**ALEEN ORUNCAKCIEL 818-642-0333**

**amaafashionshow@gmail.com**

**CO-CHAIRS**

**CHRISTINA JABARIAN**

**MELODY PETROSSIAN**

**CHRISTINE ZENJIRYAN**

*Anniversary*